

GAME PREVIEW

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NU VOLLEYBALL

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THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

# HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED



## FLASH GORDON

Wisconsin back runs for FBS record,  
ignites 56-0 run as Badgers beat NU



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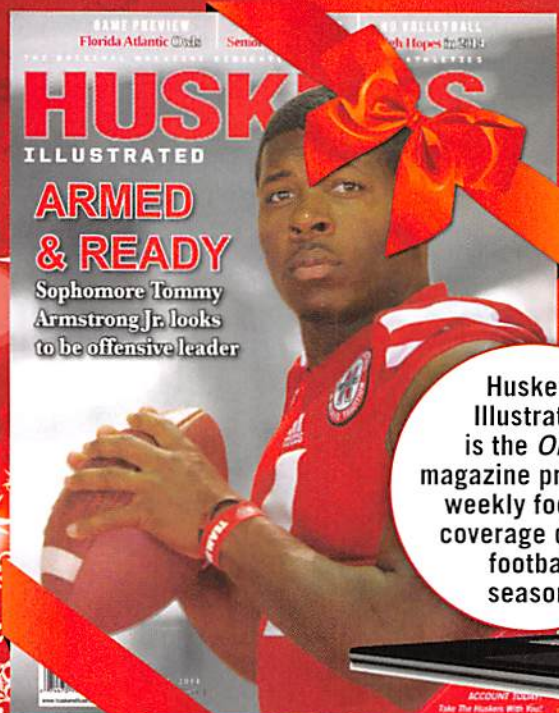


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**The next Huskers Illustrated edition, recapping the Minnesota game and previewing the Iowa game, will mail on Monday, Nov. 24.**

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BY LANNY HOLSTEIN & DARREN IVY

Nebraska senior Joey Felici has continued his family's tradition of playing football for the Huskers.

### 2014 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	TV/SCORE
AUG. 30	FLORIDA ATLANTIC	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30 P.M.	W, 55-7
SEPT. 6	MCCNEESE STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11:00 A.M.	W, 31-24
SEPT. 13	@FRESNO STATE	FRESNO, CALIF.	9:30 P.M.	W, 55-19
SEPT. 20	MIAMI	MEMORIAL STADIUM	7:00 P.M.	W, 41-31
SEPT. 27	ILLINOIS	MEMORIAL STADIUM	8:00 P.M.	W, 45-14
OCT. 4	@MICHIGAN STATE	EAST LANSING, MICH.	7:00 P.M.	L, 27-22
OCT. 18	@NORTHWESTERN	EVANSTON, ILL.	6:30 P.M.	W, 38-17
OCT. 25	RUTGERS	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11 A.M.	W, 42-24
NOV. 1	PURDUE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30 P.M.	W, 35-14
NOV. 15	@WISCONSIN	MADISON, WIS.	2:30 P.M.	L, 59-24
NOV. 22	MINNESOTA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11 A.M.	ESPN
NOV. 28	@IOWA	IOWA CITY, IA	TBA	TBD
DEC. 6	@BIG TENT TITLE GAME	INDIANAPOLIS, IND.	7 P.M.	FOX

ALL GAMES ARE CST



### ON THE COVER

Senior Corey Cooper tries to bring down Wisconsin running back Melvin Gordon during the game on Saturday. The Huskers struggled to tackle Gordon after the first quarter as he erupted for an FBS-record 408 rushing yards and four touchdowns. NU once led 17-3 before the Badgers rattled off 56-consecutive points to earn the 59-24 victory.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL SPOMER/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



## SENIOR DAY MARKS A SPECIAL TIME FOR KENNY BELL, COUSIN HOOG CONTINUES TO BE THANKFUL HUSKER STAR HONORS HIM EACH GAME

**SIX DAYS BEFORE KENNY BELL PLAYED IN HIS FIRST GAME AS A HUSKER ON SEPT. 3, 2011 AGAINST TENNESSEE-CHATTANOOGA, YOUNGER COUSIN TYLER HOOG WAS INJURED IN A JEEP ACCIDENT WHILE ON A FAMILY VACATION IN COLORADO.**

Hoog fractured three vertebrae in his neck, which has left him paralyzed from the shoulders down. Bell told WOWT back in the fall of 2011 that Tyler's injury devastated him and is the inspiration for the T. Hoog that Bell has written on his left forearm every game he's played at Nebraska.

Bell's thoughtful gesture hasn't been lost on his cousin, who has watched nearly every one of his games at Nebraska the past four years as he has tried to move on in his life, adjusting to being in a wheelchair and heading off to college at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Hoog will be watching on Saturday from one of his favorite local spots in North Carolina as Bell and 13 other seniors suit up for their final home game at Memorial Stadium against Minnesota in a key divisional game.

"It's cool to see as Kenny's career is coming to end at Nebraska that my life at school is really starting to blossom," said Hoog, who is an aspiring screenwriter. "It's pretty poetic."

"Screenwriting has given me a passion I haven't felt in a while since I played baseball. It's really cool recognizing that and seeing that my goals are attainable. Kenny's goal of playing in the pros is also attainable."

It's hard to believe it's been four years since Hoog's accident and Bell's first action against Chattanooga.

Prior to the injury, Hoog was a 6-foot-3, 185-pound junior, who was aspiring to be a collegiate and professional baseball player like his father, Mike.



Flashing back to Bell's redshirt freshman season, he struggled with how he could be able to play sports, while his cousin had that taken away with the accident.

Finally when NU's regular season ended, Bell returned home and saw Hoog, who was just returning to Colorado after spending three months of rehabilitation in Atlanta, Ga.

"I played this entire season for him," Bell told the *Boulder Daily Camera* back in December 2011. "I think about him constantly, so to get to see him is kind of surreal. His spirits lift everyone up. It's amazing."

Bell, whose mother Tami is a sister of Kim Hoog, has continued to play for Tyler as a sophomore, junior and now a senior.

The two of them had a chance to catch up before then Northwestern game on Oct. 18 as Hoog had fall break and was able to come to the game in Chicago.

"Some friends of mine drove 14 hours in a jam-packed car and our hotel room was at the same place as the team," Hoog said. "We spent some good relaxing time before the game. We just hung out in hotel and watched football, talked football. It was cool seeing how calm he was."

Hoog attended part of the Northwestern game, but had to leave early due to the weather.

Michael said his son was grateful for the opportunity to watch his cousin play in person.

"Kenny and Tyler both have strong sense of family and that is fantastic," said Tyler's father, Michael, who is a board member for the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation. "That sense of family, it's good to see they both carry that on even though they do their own things."

Normally, Hoog and the rest of his first cousins just see each other at the Trenka family Christmas in Colorado each December.

"We have a traditional Czechoslovakian

dinner," Hoog said. "My cousins are in Alaska and Texas and are all so far apart, but we come together for that one time each year. We all have food we like about it. There is others where you plug your nose and eat it cuz that's what you do."

Despite being on the East Coast, Hoog said he has met other Husker fans who show their Nebraska pride on game days.

Prior to the Michigan State game, Hoog said he was wheeling through the mall in North Carolina when he came across a young couple wearing Nebraska shirts. In a stroller, their young child was wearing a No. 80 jersey.

"I stopped them and we were talking and I told them that was my cousin," Hoog said. "I just thought that was pretty cool that their child was wearing Kenny's jersey."

Last year, Hoog was back home in Colorado and the guy who was fixing his wheelchair had a screensaver of Bell on his computer.

"I was like what are you doing with a screensaver of my cousin, but then I realized I was back in Colorado and there are a lot of Husker fans," Hoog said.

Hoog has fond memories of his last home Husker game in Lincoln.

It was the Wisconsin game in 2012 when the Huskers came back from a large deficit to win 30-27.

"It was funny being in Lincoln and being recognized," Hoog said. "People recognized me from arm-bands and stories. They were telling me to tell Kenny to have a good game."

Hoog said he appreciated everything that Bell and the NU athletic department has done for him, as well as others who are facing unfortunate situations like Jack Hoffman.

"That's just who Kenny is," Hoog said. "For a while, it surprised me that he's done it game after game. It shows that no matter what situation you are in, there are people out there who care for you. Even if it is putting my name on his arm, it's alright. Nebraska has done the same thing with Team Jack and others. They want to help. To be a part of something so much bigger because of people like Kenny or Rex [Burkhead] is amazing."

When contacted in Chapel Hill, N.C. in late October, Hoog said he was just looking at photographs on Facebook from Bell's record-breaking day against Rutgers when he passed Nate Swift on Nebraska's career receptions list.

Against Wisconsin on Saturday, Bell became Nebraska's all-time career receiving yardage leader, passing Johnny Rodgers.

"To me, he's still Kenny that used to take me to the skate park or ride around with," Hoog said. "But thinking back to all milestones and success he's had, it's on track with me recovering and getting better the last four years."

Tyler's mother and brother are planning on attending the Minnesota game in person. Tyler will be watching from afar but will be there on Bell's arm and in spirit.





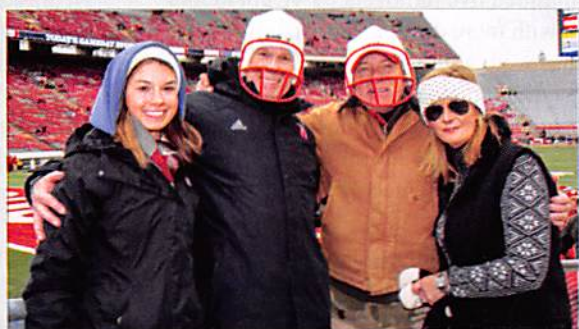
# Behind the N

## Huskers experience Camp Randall

PHOTOS BY JIMMY RASH & DARREN IVY/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



Clockwise from top: From left: Tyler Niederklein of Omaha, Molly Anderson of Fremont and Nate Hauptman of Omaha throw the bones outside Camp Randall Stadium. Stephanie Naulte and Mac Shumann from Appleton, Wisconsin had a short trip to the game. Ryan Wilhelm came up with his 9-year-old son, Jacob, from Atlanta, Georgia to cheer on the Huskers. From left: Vince Rice of Omaha, Drake Schneiderwind of Omaha, Tonya Sexton of Arkansas, Jake Davis of Papillion and Sam Loerch of Papillion pose for a photo before the game. From left: Beth Ziegenhagen of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Kirsten Busse, originally from Grand Island but now in Milwaukee, and Kirk Ramsey of Grand Island pose outside the stadium. From left: Jane Langemeier, Taylor Langemeier, Matt White, Keegan Hewitt, Zach Langemeier and Curtis Langemeier from Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin gather before the game. Curtis is originally from Aurora and is still a subscriber to *Huskers Illustrated*. Dave, Cathy and Broderick Frazier Diez of Gretna met up with friends to tailgate before the game. Madison and Dave Nabity from Omaha joined friends, Kim and Dan Burkwald from Stonebank, Wisconsin, to cheer on Dave's son, NU running back Graham Nabity, and the rest of the Huskers. From left: Omaha natives and UNL students Riley Herchenbach, Joey McLaughlin and Jake Heiman came up to support NU.





# Offense struggles to season-low output

Kenny Bell hauls in a 12-yard touchdown catch in the first quarter to break Johnny Rodgers' school record for receiving yards.



STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY MICHAEL SPOMER

**E**ven after a strong start, Nebraska's offense simply couldn't keep pace with Wisconsin running back Melvin Gordon as the Badgers rolled to a 59-24 victory over the Cornhuskers at Camp Randall Stadium.

Things were looking good for Nebraska after it forged a 17-3 lead with 14:12 remaining in the second quarter on quarterback Tommy Armstrong's 5-yard touchdown run.

But after that, the Huskers netted just 77 total yards in their final 13 possessions as Wisconsin scored 56 unanswered points on the strength of Gordon's FBS-record 408-yard rushing performance.

"We had trouble running the ball, we had trouble throwing the ball (and) hanging onto the ball," said Nebraska offen-

sive coordinator Tim Beck, whose team committed five turnovers. "I've got to look at it with more detail to see exactly where things were going on.

"I didn't notice really any difference in what they were doing. They were just doing it better than we were."

The Huskers scored on their first two possessions, taking a 10-0 lead on Drew Brown's 32-yard field goal and Armstrong's 12-yard TD pass to wide receiver Kenny Bell. It was a record-setting reception for Bell, who now has 2,492 career receiving yards to surpass Johnny Rodgers' school record of 2,479.

"Early in the game, we came out and played with a lot of intensity (and) a lot of emotion," Beck said. "Guys looked energetic and were going and then something happened and boy, I'll tell you, it just fell

apart."

Nebraska, which came into the contest ranked ninth nationally in rushing offense (280.7 yards per game) and 17th in total offense (490.6 yards per game), finished with 180 total yards. That figure included just 118 net yards rushing.

Armstrong completed 6-of-18 pass attempts for 62 yards and was sacked four times and intercepted once. Beck said the frustration level was "high" for Armstrong, who was also charged with two lost fumbles.

Wisconsin senior linebacker Marcus Trotter said the Huskers' offense appeared to lose confidence as the game wore on.

"We could see that Nebraska was kind of giving up by the third quarter," Trotter said. "So we just kept on attacking them."



# Four fumbles not enough to slow Badgers

STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY JIMMY RASH

**C**reating four turnovers wasn't nearly enough for Nebraska as the Cornhuskers allowed a school-record 581 yards rushing in a 59-24 loss to Wisconsin.

After producing just three fumble recoveries in its first nine games, NU's defense had three in the first half and finished with four in a game — the most by the Huskers since 1999 against Kansas State. However, the takeaways that helped Nebraska to a 14-point advantage early in the second quarter were made irrelevant by Wisconsin running back Melvin Gordon, who rushed for a Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS)-record 408 yards on 25 carries and scored four touchdowns.

"Just the speed of Melvin Gordon is

impossible to simulate," Nebraska defensive coordinator John Papuchis said. "That would be including anybody on our team. He's a fast man and it's a tough thing to simulate."

Papuchis admitted that Wisconsin's rushing performance created, "a lot of concern." The 581 yards rushing by the Badgers on Saturday was the most ever allowed by a Husker defense, surpassing the 539 yards rushing gained by Gordon's team in the 2012 Big Ten Championship game at Indianapolis.

"It's easy to draw parallels in terms of the two games, but it's different players and different situations," Papuchis said. "Obviously, same (coaching) staff, so we've got to do a lot of figuring out of what we can do better."

With Nebraska leading 17-3 early in

the second quarter, the Badgers faced a third-and-6 play from their own 27-yard line that Papuchis said proved to be a major turning point. Wisconsin quarterback Joel Stave beat a blitz by the Huskers' Anderson and completed an 11-yard pass to wide receiver Jordan Fredrick for a first down and Gordon promptly broke free for a 62-yard TD run on the next play.

Gordon's score sparked 56 unanswered points by the Badgers.

"It seemed like the gates opened after that," Papuchis said. "I don't have an answer as to why that happened. We played with a lot of confidence, a lot of swagger in the first quarter and for some reason, as they started making plays, we started falling apart and I can't tell you why that happened."



Greg McMullen forces a fumble in the first quarter that Zaire Anderson was able to recover.



# Gordon gashes Huskers time and again

## Wisconsin backs sets FBS record with 408 rushing yards

STORY BY LANNY HOLSTEIN | PHOTO BY MICHAEL SPOMER

**M**elvin Gordon did it to the Huskers again. Two years after the Wisconsin running back torched the Husker defense for 216 yards and a touchdown on just nine carries in the 2012 Big Ten Championship Game, he was even better as the feature back, going for an NCAA-record 408 yards and 4 touchdowns on 25 carries in Wisconsin's 59-24 win.

"I think Melvin is the best player in the country. I really do, and what he means to the team is everything," Wisconsin tight end Sam Arneson said. "He's a special player."

The way the game started, you wouldn't have guessed Gordon to be the hero though. The Huskers came out strong with touchdown drives on two of their first four possessions. Mixed with some opportunistic defense, the Huskers got out to a 17-3 lead.

That's when Gordon struck and before you knew it the Badgers scored 56 unanswered points. The junior came into the game as the Big Ten's leading rusher with 1,501 yards, and his speed was too much for the Nebraska defense. Over the course of the game, he broke off five runs of 39 yards or more and is now just 89 yards from a 2,000-yard rushing season.

"The thing that was very disappointing was that when it got to the second level, plays that should have been an eight or a 10-yard gain became 40 and 50," Nebraska Coach Bo Pelini said. "That can't happen. Believe me, I give him a lot of credit. Melvin Gordon is a hell of a back, but we played a big part in that too."

The embarrassing loss was Nebraska's eighth by 20 or more points since 2011. Pelini was not happy with the effort after the game.

"We started off well, doing a lot of good things in all three phases of the game, and when it flipped, it flipped," the coach said. "Somewhere along the way, our guys lost their confidence."

Things spiraled out of control after the solid start somewhat inexplicably. After forcing fumbles and punching drives into



Kenny Bell painfully looks up at the scoreboard as the snow falls around him late in the 59-24 loss in Madison, Wisconsin.

the end zone, the game did a complete 180, and that was the most frustrating part to Pelini.

"I just told our guys that when you get hit in the mouth and things start going away from you, you have to respond better than we did," he said. "That was the disappointing part."

Offensively, Nebraska really never got it going. Even in the early going, the team scored off of Wisconsin turnovers and a short field, when De'Mornay Pierson-El took a short punt back to the Wisconsin 43-yard line. In the end, NU ended up with 180 yards of total offense.

"We turned the ball over some, and we put ourselves in some long yardage situations," offensive coordinator Tim Beck said. "It was a bad pass or a missed protection, just a bunch of different things that took place. We just

didn't execute well."

Quarterback Tommy Armstrong wasn't the only member of the unit to struggle, but he didn't have his best game. The sophomore signal caller completed 6 of 18 passes for 62 yards, not helping much to keep the Badgers off of Ameer Abdullah and the running game.

The loss drops Nebraska to 8-2 on the year and 4-2 in the conference, not quite out of contention in the Big Ten West but far enough back that it needs some help. Beck said it will be important to rebound after the crushing loss.

"There's a lot to play for," Beck said. "There's still senior day coming up against Minnesota, a good football team, you still got Iowa, the rival coming up and a chance to be 10-2. That's nothing to spit at."



## SUMMARY

### SCORING

November 15, 2014  
Camp Randall Stadium, Madison, Wisconsin  
Attendance: 80,539

	1	2	3	4	F
WISCONSIN	3	21	28	7	59
NEBRASKA	10	7	0	7	24

- Q1** 12:24 NEB - 32 yd field goal by Drew Brown 6-14 14S  
0 3
- 9:21 NEB - Bell, Kenny 12 yd pass from Tommy Armstrong Jr. (Brown, Drew kick) 5-43 1:59  
0 10
- 06:10 WIS - Rafael Gaglianone 26 yd field goal 7-67 3:11  
3 10
- Q2** 14:12 NEB - Armstrong Jr., Tommy, 5 yd run (Brown, Drew kick) 5-30 3:53  
3 17
- 12:21 WIS - Gordon, Melvin 62 yd run (Gaglianone, Rafael kick) 4-77 1:45  
10 17
- 7:21 WIS - Clement, Corey, 17 yd run (Gaglianone, Rafael kick) 2-56 0:41  
17 17
- 3:31 WIS - Arneson, Sam 5 yd pass from Joel Stave (Gaglianone, Rafael kick) 6-75 2:38  
24 17
- Q3** 8:06 WIS - Gordon, Melvin 1 yd run (Gaglianone, Rafael kick) 4-58 1:55  
31 17
- 5:46 WIS - Gordon, Melvin 6 yd run (Gaglianone, Rafael kick) 2-74 0:41  
38 17
- 1:00 WIS - McEvoy, Tanner 11 yd run (Gaglianone, Rafael kick) 6-58 3:09  
45 17
- 0:00 WIS - Gordon, Melvin 26 yd run (Gaglianone, Rafael kick) 2-26 0:12  
52 17
- Q4** 5:34 WIS - Ogunbowale, Dar 8 yd run (Gaglianone, Rafael kick) 7-51 4:02  
59 17
- 2:00 NEB - Newby, Terrell 2 yd run (Brown, Drew kick) 1-2 0:06  
59 24

### TEAM STATS

	NEBRASKA	WISCONSIN
FIRST DOWNS	11	20
Rushing	6	17
Passing	3	3
Penalty	2	0
NET YARDS RUSHING	118	581
Rushing Attempts	46	53
Average Per Rush	2.6	11.0
Rushing Touchdowns	2	7
Yards Gained Rushing	160	591
Yards Lost Rushing	42	10
NET YARDS PASSING	118	46
Completions-Attempts-Int.	6-18-1	7-11-0
Average Per Attempt	3.4	4.2
Average Per Completion	10.3	6.6
Passing Touchdowns	1	1
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	180	627
Total offense plays	64	64
Average Gain Per Play	2.8	9.8
Fumbles: Number-Lost	5-4	5-4
Penalties: Number-Yards	7-55	6-55
PUNTS-YARDS	8-375	3-79
Average Yards Per Punt	46.9	26.3
Net Yards Per Punt	46.9	21.7
Inside 20	2	0
50+ Yards	3	0
Touchbacks	0	0
Fair catch	5	1
KICKOFFS-YARDS	5-322	10-632
Average Yards Per Kickoff	64.4	63.2
Net Yards Per Kickoff	41.2	41.1
Touchbacks	2	3
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	1-14-0	0-0-0
Average Per Return	14.0	0.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	7-146-0	3-66-0
Average Per Return	20.9	22.0
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	1-14-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	1-3-0	0-0-0
Possession Time	28:40	31:20
Third-Down Conversions	3 of 14	3 of 8
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 0	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	4-4	7-7
Touchdowns	3-4	6-7
Field goals	1-4	1-7
Sacks By: Number-Yards	1-5	4-31
PAT Kicks	3-3	8-8
Field Goals	1-1	1-1

## INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

### WISCONSIN

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	LG	AVG
Gordon, Melvin	25	410	2	408	4	68	16.3
Ogunbowale, Dar.	10	62	0	62	1	12	6.2
McEvoy, Tanner	6	56	0	56	1	19	9.3
Doe, Kenzel	2	37	0	37	0	31	18.5
Clement, Corey	5	22	0	22	1	17	4.4
Houston, Bart	1	4	0	4	0	0	4.0
TEAM	3	0	3	-3	0	0	-1.0
Stave, Joel	1	0	5	-5	0	0	-5.0
Totals	53	591	10	581	7	68	11.0

PASSING	C-A-I	YDS	TD	LONG	SACK
Stave, Joel	7-11-0	46	1	13	1
Totals	7-11-0	46	1	13	1

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	TD	LONG
Doe, Kenzel	2	16	0	13
Erickson, Alex	2	13	0	13
Fredrick, Jordan	1	11	0	11
Arneson, Sam	1	5	1	5
Fumagalli, Troy	1	1	0	1
Totals	7	46	1	13

PUNTS	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	IN20	TBD
Meyer, Drew	2	61	30.5	37	0	0
Houston, Bart	1	18	18.0	18	0	0

RETURNS	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG
Jean, Peniel	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	14	14
Doe, Kenzel	0	0	0	3	66	24	0	0	0

FIELD GOALS	QTR	TIME	DISTANCE	RES
Gaglianone, Rudy	1st	6:10	26 yds	Good

DEFENSE	TS	AT	TT	SACK-YD	TFL-YD	FF	FR-YD	INT-YD	BU	BLK	QBH
59 Trotter, Marc.	4	8	12	1-8	1-8	-	1-0	-	-	-	-
58 Schobert, Joe	5	6	11	0.5-6	2.5-10	-	1-0	-	1	-	-
30 Landisch, De.	4	6	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 Caputo, Mich.	3	3	6	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-
47 Biegel, Vince	5	0	5	-	2-6	1	-	-	-	-	-
27 Hudson, Au.	3	0	3	1-6	1-6	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 Herring, War.	2	0	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
21 Jean, Peniel	2	0	2	1-6	1-6	-	1-0	1-14	-	-	-
43 Trotter, M.	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
36 Ferguson, J.	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 Figaro, Lub.	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5A Hillary, Darius	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 Fredrick, Jorda	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
48 Fumagalli, Tr.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Shelton, Sojour	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
1 Jordan, A.J.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 Gauden, Dev.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32 Jacobs, Leon	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12 Jamerson, N.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 Sanders, K.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
93 Keefer, Jake	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
91 Zagzebski, K.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3C Obasiah, Chik.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
95 Goldberg, A.	0	1	1	-	5-5	0.5-5	-	-	-	-	-
2T Tindal, Derr.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-



JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

### NEBRASKA

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	LG	AVG
Abdullah, Ameer	18	75	6	69	0	13	3.8
Armstrong Jr., Tommy	20	53	36	17	1	10	0.9
Foltz, Sam	1	14	0	14	0	14	14.0
Newby, Terrell	5	11	0	11	1	5	2.2
Cross, Imani	2	7	0	7	0	4	3.5
Totals	46	160	42	118	2	14	2.6

PASSING	C-A-I	YDS	TD	LONG	SACK
Armstrong Jr., Tommy	6-18-1	62	1	26	4
Totals	6-18-1	62	1	26	4

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	TD	LONG
Bell, Kenny	2	14	1	12
Abdullah, Ameer	1	26	0	26
Reilly, Brandon	1	14	0	14
Westerkamp, Jordan	1	6	0	6
Pierson-El, DeMornay	1	2	0	2
Totals	6	62	1	26

PUNTS	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	IN20	TB
Foltz, Sam	8	375	46.9	70	2	0

RETURNS	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG
Pierson-El, Dem.	1	14	14	2	33	19	0	0	0
Moore, Alonzo	0	0	0	1	21	21	0	0	0
Bell, Kenny	0	0	0	4	92	25	0	0	0

FIELD GOALS	QTR	TIME	DISTANCE	RES
Brown, Drew	1st	12:24	34 yds	Good

DEFENSE	TS	AT	TT	SACK-YD	TFL-YD	FF	FR-YD	INT-YD	BU	BLK	QBH
6 Cooper, Corey	6	4	10	-	1-1	2	-	-	-	-	-
25 Gerry, Nathan	7	2	9	-	-	1	1-3	-	-	-	-
13 Anderson, Z	4	2	6	-	-	1	2-0	-	1	-	-
5 Mitchell, Josh	5	0	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 Gregory, Randy	2	3	5	-	1.5-3	-	-	-	-	-	-
14 Rose, Jonathan	3	0	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
41 Santos, David	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
51 Love, Court.	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
43 Roach, Trevor	2	1	3	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-
90 McMullen, Gr.	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
98 Valentin, Vin.	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23 Davie, Daniel	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
52 Banderas, Jo.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 Felici, Joey	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7A Collins, Maliek	0	1	1	-	5-2	5-2	-	-	-	-	-
55 Maurice, Kev.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
92 Williams, Kev.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



**RUSHING OFFENSE:** Nebraska was moving the ball on the ground at times during the first quarter, but then Ameer Abdullah appeared to get hobbled and the fumbles started. Nebraska put the ball on the ground four times and managed just 118 yards of total rushing, as the Badgers sold out to stop the Husker ground game. – *Michael Bruntz*

D

**PASSING OFFENSE:** Tommy Armstrong finished the game 6-for-18 with a touchdown and an interception, but Nebraska never seriously threatened the Badgers through the air. Nebraska called an array of rollout throws and deep passes that didn't seem to hit the mark. Nebraska's best passing offense may have been two straight pass interference penalties on overthrown balls in the second quarter. – *Michael Bruntz*

F

**RUSHING DEFENSE:** When you give up the Big Ten and FBS record for rushing yards by a running back – 408 by Melvin Gordon – there's no other grade here. Wisconsin finished with 581 yards rushing as a team, and the Huskers had no answer for Gordon's speed in the second and third quarters as he averaged 16.3 yards per carry – 25 carries for 408 in the game. – *Michael Bruntz*

F

**PASSING DEFENSE:** Nebraska held quarterback Joel Stave to 7-of-11 passing, but the Wisconsin quarterback never really needed to go to the air when Wisconsin was getting the kind of chunk yardage it got Saturday. Stave threw a touchdown pass, and was sacked just once. If the Huskers planned to make Stave beat them through the air, it never even came close to that Saturday. – *Michael Bruntz*

C

**KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS:** The Huskers didn't get their usual field position advantage after the first quarter because the Badgers only punted to DeMornay Pierson-El one time – a kick he returned for 14 yards. On the afternoon the Badgers only punted three times. Give credit to punter Sam Foltz for rumbling for a first down on a read fake, but the yardage was negated by an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on Zach Hannon after the play. – *Michael Bruntz*

C

## Quoting Nebraska head coach Bo Pelini on how the Huskers dealt with adversity:

"I just told our guys that when you get hit in the mouth and things start going away from you, you have to respond better than we did. That was the disappointing part."



# Game Notes

## FOLTZ SHINES IN LOSS

The game didn't go anywhere near the way Nebraska wanted, but one bright spot was the play of Husker punter Sam Foltz. The sophomore booted eight balls deep into Wisconsin territory, flipping the field on multiple occasions. He ended up with two inside the 20, including one at the one-yard line, and a 46.9 yard average.

Foltz also picked up a first down on Nebraska's last drive of the first half when he saw something in the defense that he liked.

"(The coaches) just gave me the option," Foltz said. "They said that they're giving you a look where we could take it, so they trusted me to rollout. If I saw something I liked, I could run with it."

Foltz ran down the right sideline, picking up 14 yards and a first down behind a convoy of Husker blockers. The Red Sea parted for the Husker punter as he rolled out on his approach, and the kicker even laid a shoulder into his eventual tackler instead of going out of bounds.

"Oh, yeah. I miss playing football," he said of the hit. "But as soon as I got to the sidelines there were guys telling me that I should have got out of bounds, but I wanted to make a play, and I enjoy playing football."

On Foltz's first punt, there also appeared to be a lane for him to run as well, but he thought better of taking off that time.

"I didn't have the green light on that, so I just went ahead and punted it because I knew my guys had good coverage," he said. "But I knew after that that we needed some momentum back, and I just took off."

## ABDULLAH RETURNS

Ameer Abdullah made his return to the lineup against Wisconsin after missing the majority of the Purdue game with a sprained MCL. The running back ended up with 69 yards on 18 carries and now has 1,319 yards on the season to move him into the No. 10 spot on the Nebraska season rushing list.

"I thought Ameer did good," Coach Bo Pelini said after the game. "Being a great player, you have to play great around him, and we didn't play great around Ameer. I thought he did some good things, but he wasn't at 100 percent. He was a warrior out there running."

Abdullah had two weeks to recover from the MCL sprain because of Nebraska's off week in between Purdue and Wisconsin, but even that was a bit of a rushed timetable. Injuries of the sort usually take between three and five weeks to heal, but Nebraska needed it star back on the field.

Offensive coordinator Tim Beck also said he appreciated Abdullah giving it a go.

"We still trust him and appreciate the work he does for us," the coach said.



Ameer Abdullah goes over the top of Wisconsin defenders. He finished with 69 rushing yards.



JIMMY RASCH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

## GREGORY INJURED

In other injury news, Nebraska defensive end Randy Gregory went down with a knee injury when fellow defender Daniel Davie banged into his leg in the fourth quarter.

The star defensive end came out for the rest of the game, but he will be okay, according to Nebraska Coach Pelini.

"I think Randy will be fine," the coach said.

Gregory finished with a half sack and 1.5 tackles for loss in the game.

## CONTAINMENT AN ISSUE AGAIN

Setting the edge was an issue for Nebraska against Wisconsin in 2012, when the Badgers busted runs loose down the sideline to the tune of 539 yards. It was an issue again on Saturday.

"They did a good job of cracking our safeties, and when that happens, you have to do a good job of setting edges, and we didn't do that very well," Nebraska defensive coordinator John Papuchis said.

Melvin Gordon got to the edge it seemed like repeatedly against the Huskers, and when he does that, he's gone, according to Papuchis. It was difficult for Nebraska to simulate what he does during the week in practice. His explosiveness was different than anything the Huskers have seen.

"We don't have anyone like that," Papuchis said. "The speed of Melvin Gordon is impossible to simulate, and that would include anybody on our team, I mean he's a fast kid."



# FINAL SCORE: WISCONSIN 59, NEBRASKA 24





Ameer Abdullah goes over the top of Wisconsin defenders. He finished with 69 rushing yards.



JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

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# FINAL SCORE: WISCONSIN 59, NEBRASKA 24







CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: NATE GERRY (25) SIGNALS ITS NEBRASKA BALL AFTER RANDY GREGORY AND COREY COOPER WERE ABLE TO FORCE MELVIN GORDON TO FUMBLE. JOSH MITCHELL TRIES TO BRING DOWN MELVIN GORDON AS ZAIRE ANDERSON LOOKS ON. TOMMY ARMSTRONG SPRINTS TO THE ENDZONE FOR A FIVE-YARD TOUCHDOWN RUN. BRANDON REILLY RUNS WITH THE BALL AFTER A CATCH. NEBRASKA PLAYERS COME DOWN THE TUNNEL ONTO THE FIELD AT CAMP RANDALL STADIUM. JORDAN WESTERKAMP TIPS THE BALL TO HIMSELF FOR A CATCH. ZAIRE ANDERSON HOLDS THE BALL UP AFTER A FIRST-QUARTER FUMBLE RECOVERY AS DAVID SANTOS (41), VINCENT VALENTINE (98) AND NATHAN GERRY (25) LOOK ON. THE REFEREE SIGNALS NEBRASKA BALL AS ZAIRE ANDERSON MAKES HIS SECOND FUMBLE RECOVERY. LINEBACKER COURTNEY LOVE MAKES A TACKLE IN THE SECOND HALF. JAKE COTTON (68), MIKE MOUDY (74) AND MALIEK COLLINS WALK OFF THE SNOW-COVERED FIELD AFTER THE GAME.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL SPOMER & JIMMY RASH



# 2MinuteDrill

JOEY FELICI  
CARRIES  
ON HUSKER  
FAMILY  
TRADITION



JOE MIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Joey Felici makes a tackle against Purdue during Nebraska's 35-14 victory.



By Darren Ivy and Lanny Holstein

Football is a family tradition at Nebraska, it always has been. Whether it's the Peter family, the Wistrom family or any other in the long stretch of Husker history, playing for the Big Red has often been a tradition passed down from brother to brother or from father to son.

The latter was the case with Husker cornerback Joey Felici. His father, two-time All-Big Eight defensive end Tony Felici, played in the early 1980s and passed the torch to his son. Being a second-generation Husker is pretty cool, according to the younger Felici.

"It's definitely cool meeting people he played with and the contacts," he said. "I mean, I never thought much about it, but then I'll go to fan day, and people will come up to me and tell me about watching my dad score a touchdown against Florida State. It's cool to hear that."

Both Felici and his father walked-on at Nebraska. As in-state kids, they always had Nebraska on the map, but for Joey, the Huskers weren't always the No. 1 team.

"Growing up, I was actually a Sooner fan," he said. "I liked to watch Jason White and those guys, watching them play with Adrian Peterson. When I started getting into high school, that's when I started getting into Nebraska. We lived in Omaha, but before that, it wasn't a big priority getting to games."

Even in high school, Felici wasn't set on following his father's footsteps, partially because the elder Felici didn't push him in that direction, leaving the choice to his son, and partially because he had the eye of some smaller schools. One particular conversation swayed him away from those options though.

"I remember talking to some older guys about the 'what if.' What if you go to a smaller school and you play a lot, but you are going to have that in the back of your mind that if you went to a bigger school you might have played," Felici said. "I came here, so I don't have that regret."

Felici hasn't earned the same recognition his father did over the course of his five years in Lincoln, but he is a starter on Nebraska's punt return and kickoff units this season. In his own way, he's continuing the legacy his father started at Nebraska.

"Those are some big shoes to fill," Felici said. "(Tony) was a great player here. I try my best and do what I can, but he's good enough that I don't stay in his shadow or anything like that. I don't think of it that way."

Felici's been a part of the Huskers' most improved unit. His block sprung De'Mornay Pierson-El for a touchdown against Fresno State on punt return.

"I take a lot of pride in that," he said. "I mean, we've had a lot of success with De'Mornay back there returning a couple and blocking a couple punts as well. I take it to heart. It's a play you get in that you have to bust your ass for. You might not think it counts, but that one block can be the difference."

Behind the scenes, Felici's been important as well. As a scout team cornerback the past four seasons, he's gone up against the likes of Niles Paul, Quincy Enunwa, and Kenny Bell. As a 5-foot-9 cornerback, Felici loves the challenge of going against future-NFL wideouts.

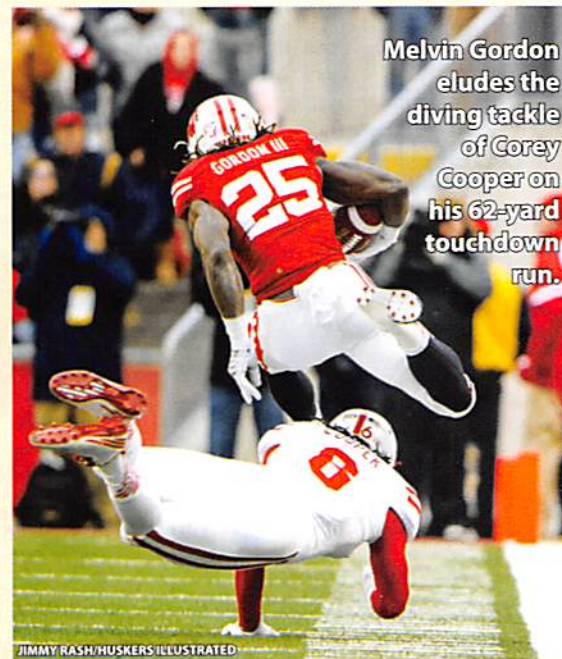
"One of my favorite plays here at Nebraska was when Quincy was just stalk blocking me," Felici said. "We were just messing around, and I hip-threw him to the ground on film. I used to give him so much s%\*# because I'm a smaller guy than him. He told me that I got lucky. I still mess with Quincy to this day about stuff like that."

The ride is almost over for Felici. As the season winds down with only a couple regular season games to go and a single home game left, the senior said he's glad he stuck it out at Nebraska.

"When you're young, you want to play right away, and I didn't get that opportunity here, but for me to get a chance to do that as a senior, I'm glad I stuck it out," he said. "I know a lot of the other walk-on guys would leave and transfer, but I wouldn't trade the ride for the world."

## HI'S TOP5

# NU'S SINGLE GAME RUSHING YARDS BY AN OPPONENT



Melvin Gordon eludes the diving tackle of Corey Cooper on his 62-yard touchdown run.

- 1 408 – MELVIN GORDON, AT WISCONSIN., NOV. 15, 2014 (62, 26, 6, 1)
- 2 290 – JAMAAL CHARLES, AT TEXAS, OCT. 27, 2007 (33, 3 TDS)
- 3 247 – BILLY SIMS, AT OKLAHOMA, NOV. 24, 1979 (28, 0 TDS)
- 4 246 – BRAD SMITH, AT MISSOURI, OCT. 22, 2005 (28, 3 TDS)
- 5 238 – CURT WARNER, PENN ST., SEPT. 26, 1981 (28, 0 TDS)

By halftime of Saturday's game against Wisconsin, Badger senior running back Melvin Gordon already had gained 238 yards on 16 carries, which was tied for the fourth-most ever given up by the Huskers to an opposing player. In the second half, Gordon continued to gash Nebraska's defense breaking the record on a 43-yard carry that set up his one-yard score to make it 31-17 with 8:06 left in the third quarter. His 216-yard effort in 2012 game still ranks as the eighth most yards given up by NU.



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## BELL'S ROAD TO A RECORD 2,492 YARDS

### 2014

*Opponent-Catches-Yards-TDs*

Florida Atlantic	4-116-0
McNeese State	1-14-0
Fresno State	5-84-0
Miami	4-70-1
Illinois	5-105-1
Michigan State	3-31-0
Northwestern	5-89-0
Rutgers	6-63-0
Purdue	1-5-0
Wisconsin	2-14-1

### 2013

Wyoming	7-57-0
Southern Miss	3-45-1
UCLA	6-68-1
South Dakota State	2-20-0
Illinois	4-65-1
Purdue	2-29-0
Minnesota	3-45-0
Northwestern	2-12-0
Michigan	3-44-0
Michigan State	7-81-1
Penn State	5-33-0
Iowa	7-67-0
Georgia	1-11-0

### 2012

Southern Miss	1-26-1
UCLA	6-108-0
Arkansas State	3-71-2
Idaho State	1-68-1
Wisconsin	4-57-0
Ohio State	5-133-0
Northwestern	6-77-1
Michigan	2-51-1
Michigan State	5-31-0
Penn State	2-31-0
Minnesota	9-136-2
Iowa	0-0-0
Wisconsin	2-14-0
Georgia	4-60-0

### 2011

Chattanooga	0-0-0
Fresno State	1-42-0
Washington	2-59-0
Wyoming	2-20-1
Wisconsin	1-9-0
Ohio State	3-33-0
Minnesota	4-25-0
Michigan State	1-19-0
Northwestern	5-58-1
Penn State	4-42-0
Michigan	1-8-0
Iowa	5-93-0
South Carolina	3-53-1



Kenny Bell makes a diving catch against Florida Atlantic earlier in the season.

## BELL BREAKS RODGERS' CAREER YARDS RECORD

With his 12-yard touchdown catch in the first quarter, senior receiver Kenny Bell broke Johnny Rodgers' career receiving yardage record of 2,479 yards. Bell came into the game one yard behind Rodgers and finished the game with two catches for 14 yards. Bell had previously broken Nate Swift's career receptions record.

## GREGORY, ABDULLAH NAMED AWARDS SEMIFINALISTS

Nebraska standouts Ameer Abdullah and Randy Gregory were named semifinalists for prestigious national awards Monday morning. Abdullah is one of 20 semifinalists for the Maxwell Award, while Gregory is among 20 semifinalists for the Chuck Bednarik Award. Both awards are presented by the Maxwell Football Club.

Abdullah has rushed for 1,250 yards and scored 19 touchdowns through nine games to power the Nebraska offense. Abdullah leads the nation, averaging 187.9 all-purpose yards per game and has recorded two of the four 300-plus all-purpose yardage games in the nation this season. Abdullah also ranks in the top 10 nationally in

rushing yards and scoring. In 2014, Abdullah has moved to No. 2 on the Big Ten career all-purpose yardage list and is on pace to challenge Nebraska's career rushing record.

Abdullah is one six running backs on the Maxwell Award semifinalist list, including fellow Big Ten backs Tevin Coleman and Melvin Gordon.

Gregory continues to be a dominant force on the Nebraska defense. Gregory has a team-high 5.5 sacks despite missing nearly two full games early in the season.

The 6-6, 245-pound Gregory has 37 total tackles on the year, and also leads the Huskers with 14 quarterback hurries.

He also has an interception, a blocked field goal and three pass breakups.

Gregory is one of three Big Ten defenders on the list, including Ohio State defensive end Joey Bosa and Michigan State end Shilique Calhoun.

The Maxwell Award is given annually to the Collegiate Player of the Year, while the Chuck Bednarik Award is given to the Outstanding Defensive Player of the Year. The three finalists for each award will be announced on Monday, Nov. 24, and the winners will be announced at the Home Depot College Football Awards Show on Thursday, Dec. 11.

## WISCONSIN IS A TROPHY GAME

In the days leading up to the Wisconsin-Nebraska football game, the teams' athletic directors came together to announce that the game would be played for more than just bragging rights. Wisconsin's Barry Alvarez and Nebraska's Shawn Eichorst unveiled the latest in a long line of Big Ten rivalry trophies, the Freedom Trophy.

"Trophy games are part of the tradition of college football, and I'm thrilled that we're going to be introducing one into our rivalry with Nebraska," Wisconsin Athletic Director Barry Alvarez said. "The Freedom Trophy brings recognition to two historic football venues and it honors our nation's veterans. It is something I know the coaches, student-athletes and fans of both programs will embrace for years to come."

Eichorst echoed the Wisconsin AD's comments.

"The Freedom Trophy provides a unique opportunity for us to pay special tribute to the brave men and women who have and will continue to defend our nation's freedom," he said.

The trophy features a bronze football stadium with an American flag extending from the center. One half of the outside of the stadium



# Senior Spotlight on Austin Williams

**Story By** LANNY HOLSTEIN • **Photo By** JOE MIXAN

*Is it kind of sad to be down to your last few games as a Husker?*

"It is. The more people that come up to me and say exactly what you just said are starting to make it sink in. It's going to be pretty sad. I'm not going to lie."

*How would you describe the experience?*

"Oh, it's been a hell of a ride. I didn't really know what I was getting myself into. I obviously knew that I had to do whatever I could to get myself on the field. I played safety the first two years, and then made the transition to linebacker. I think that was the best thing for me. There's been ups and downs, and I'm just blessed to have this opportunity to even play at all."

*Why did you end up moving to linebacker?*

"Coach Bo just asked me to do it because they needed some more depth, and at the same time, I'm a physical guy, and I would much rather be covering tight ends than wide outs. I love being in the box and being close to the football."

*What was the defining moment of your career for you?*

"Being on scout team, I think that's what really gave me a chance to make my mark, and get in front of the offensive coaches, get them talking about me. That's what gave me a chance to play on Saturday."

*Was your time on scout team going against the top units a good time?*

"It was a great experience because I really had to go all out to make an impact. There were a lot of fights and brawls, stuff like that. It was balls to the wall every day, and I knew that was how it was going to be from the start."

*Was there a guy or two that you would get into it with?*

"Yoshi Hardrick and I used to get into it. Tyler Legate too. Those guys were hell of a great bunch of athletes, and it made us all better getting into it like we did. We had a lot of collisions, I'll say that."

*Let us in on your relationship with Coach Bo. What do you think of your head coach?*

"I think coach Bo is an awesome human being. People don't really see his true colors some times on Saturdays because all they see is him on the camera, but behind the scenes, he's an awesome guy to talk to. He always made fun of my hair my first three years, and now he calls me Thor. He tells me to throw the hammer on Saturdays."

*What is the story behind your hair? It's getting pretty long.*

"I just started growing it out. Cameron Meredith gave me some motivation to start growing it out, so I've been doing it the last four years. It's kind of a college football thing. I'm definitely going to cut it after our last game."

*Do people recognize you on the street as a football player?*

"Oh, yeah, all the time. I think it's mainly because of my hair, but some guys notice my special teams play. When I'm out or with family, people will come up to me and congratulate the team. They'll notice."

*Is there anything different about the Nebraska football experience than how you thought it was going to be coming out of high school?*

"As a kid, you think it's all fun and games. Yeah, it's football, it's football, but here it's a job, you know. It's a job day in and day out to do what we do here. There's a lot of work, a lot of practices, a lot of meetings, and as a kid, you don't realize that, but there's no better feeling that being out there and playing."



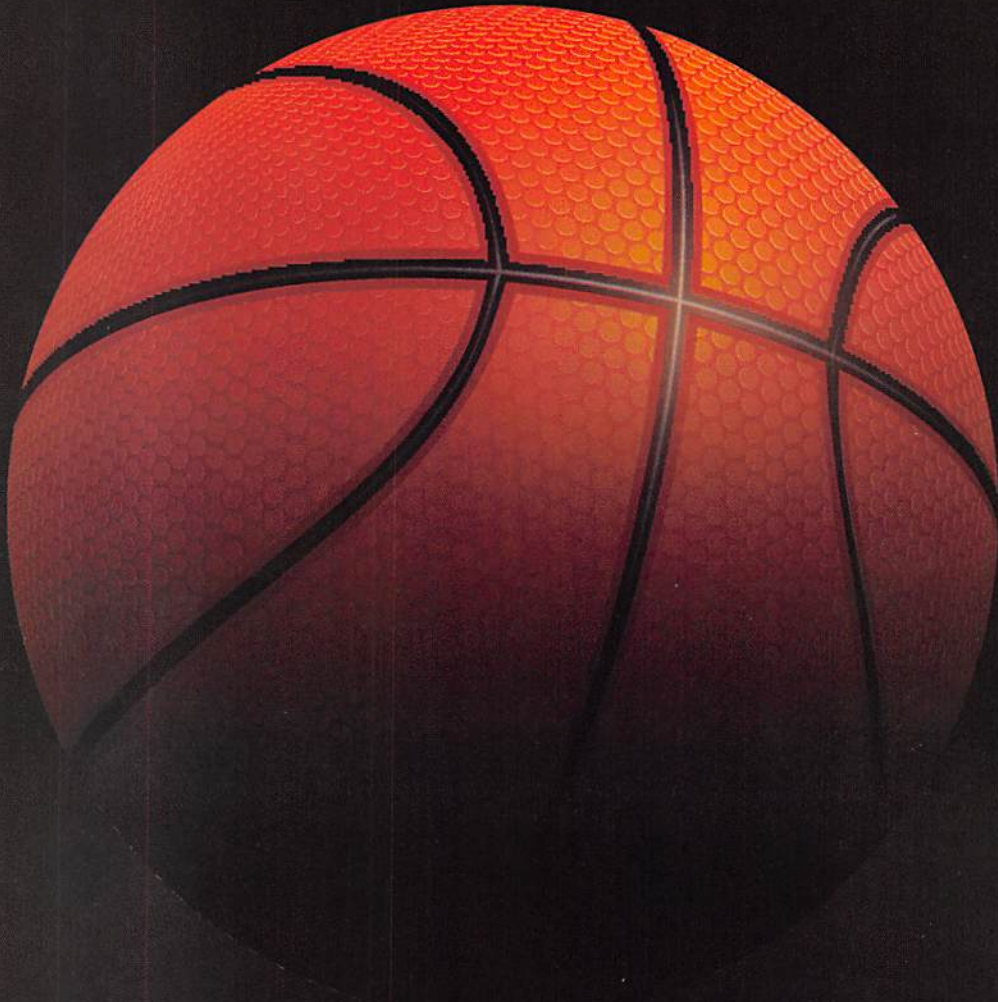


Senior linebacker Austin Williams makes a tackle against Florida Atlantic earlier this season.





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depicts the North section of Wisconsin's Camp Randall Stadium and the other half the East side of Nebraska's Memorial Stadium. The stadium and flag sculpture sits on top of a wooden base that has dedicated space for future Wisconsin-Nebraska game scores.

With the Big Ten establishing East and West divisions for football prior to this season, the Huskers and Badgers will now play each other every year as members of the West Division.

## NO 'BIG GAMES' FOR COACH PELINI

Nebraska has a history of poor play in big games under coach Bo Pelini, and they are trying to get past that this season. Pelini said earlier this week that it comes down to execution and focus come game time.

"We don't over-coach. We don't do it any differently," he said. "Let me tell you, I'm not taking a shot or anything, but every game is the same magnitude as far as I'm concerned. I don't buy into the 'this is a big game, this isn't a big game' thing."

Wisconsin was what might be considered a "big game" for the Huskers and so are the Minnesota and Iowa games in the coming weeks because of their impact on the conference title race. Still, Pelini won't give them any more credence, at least not publicly.

"Just watch college football. You better be ready week in and week out. There are no games that are bigger than the next," the coach said. "Our approach won't be any different."

## BROWN UNDER THE RADAR

Husker freshman Drew Brown was 9-14 kicking field goals as of this writing, but he had missed his last two, failing to get his only attempt through the uprights in both the Rutgers and Purdue games.

That didn't stop Husker coach Bo Pelini from complimenting his young kicker on the work he's done the past couple weeks during practice.

"It's coming really solid off of his foot," the coach said. "I thought he went through a bit of a funk for about a week. He worked some things out, and I think he's feeling a lot better and a lot more confident. I have confidence in Drew."

Brown's flown under the radar for much of Nebraska's season, not finding himself in many big situations. He's really managed to avoid the spotlight that usually ac-

companies Nebraska's kicker. Alex Henery, Pat Maher and even Pat Smith were something of celebrities for the work they did.

Brown has plenty of time to get there, according to Pelini.

"I think he's a young player and he's going to continue to get better," Pelini said. "He works at it every day. I feel good about our kicking situation. There are other coaches on the staff obviously that are more in tune to the kicking game as far as the kickers are concerned, and we lean on those guys."

Nebraska does not have a kicking coach on the staff, but a few staff members, such as defensive coordinator John Papuchis, have a bit of knowledge in that department.

"Most of the kickers have their own coaches, guys that they go to in the off-season and such," Pelini said. "There are certain basic techniques I can see that are obvious, and I might make a comment here and there, but it's like a golfer swing. It's about repetition, hitting it strong."

Pelini said he has no plans of adding a kicking coach to the staff.

"It'd be hard to do. With the 10 coaches on your staff, to be able to just hire a guy specifically for kicking, I don't know if it's feasible," he said.

## COTTON HAPPY WITH ARMSTRONG

You can put Nebraska left guard Jake Cotton down as a Tommy Armstrong fan. The offensive linemen made sure to point out how much he appreciates the signal caller this past week.

"Tommy is a really strong competitor, a really fierce competitor, and when things don't go the way he would like them, he gets hard on himself," Cotton said. "I think that's part of what makes him great. That's why I like blocking for the guy, because he is never satisfied."

Cotton also said he doesn't feel the need to console Armstrong after a tough loss or a little adversity hits the team. Armstrong is only a sophomore, but he's more mature than that implies, according to Cotton.

"He's not a guy you need to put your arm around after a game and say, 'It's going to be OK,' because he knows that," Cotton said. "He might be down on himself after a game or certain performance, but you know he is going to put more work into it next week to make sure it doesn't happen again."

## SENIOR DAY VS. MINNESOTA



Ameer Abdullah



Zaire Anderson



Kenny Bell



Corey Cooper



Jake Cotton



Joey Felici



Derek Foster



Paul Kelly



Josh Mitchell



Mike Moudy



Mark Pelini



Trevor Roach



Jamal Turner



Austin Williams





# RECRUITING NOTEBOOK

BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER  
RECRUITING EDITOR  
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

## Huskers look to land '15 wide receivers

Following the Stanley Morgan commitment the Huskers now have two wide receivers locked in for the 2015 class and are keeping an eye on several more. Nebraska will likely take three receivers in the class.

Morgan gives the Huskers a nice big play threat immediately. The New Orleans area receiver has good hands and his speed will force teams to respect what he can do on the outside. There's no great Nebraska comparable right now, but he does have some of the same playmaking skills as Kenny Bell – a key member of Nebraska's offense when things are going right and a senior.

One thing that Morgan's presence will do is open up the box. Teams are going to force the Huskers to take deep shots and other than Bell, there's no one else right now on Nebraska's roster that is adept at making those kinds of plays downfield.

Conversely, Nekyle Lundie, Nebraska's other receiver commitment has a good physical presence. He's not as fast as Morgan, but he's got great size and can use his body to make catches in traffic and provide a nice safety belt for the Huskers.

Lundie is also a strong athlete that will hurt teams down the field – but more so on post routes. He could also be an effective red zone target as well. Perhaps most important early, he's a good blocker that understands the value of selling blocks when setting up play action.

Over the past three classes, Nebraska has brought in a handful of receivers but other than Demornay Pierson-El no one has seized the reins and taken a big step forward. NU did also put Sam Burtch and Brandon Reilly on scholarship, but those two have been plagued by injuries all season.

This leaves the position at a little bit of a flux and might

explain why the Huskers would keep the door open for more options at the position.

There are a few options still out there for Nebraska with one clear leader as things stand right now.

**TONY BROWN** – This makes the most sense for the Huskers. Brown is much like Morgan in that he'd provide an instant jolt of speed with above average size. He's not an aerial threat but on film he's shown a good ability to track a ball and finish with it. Brown's senior film is some of the best among Nebraska's targets – and it's easy to see how he'd fit in NU's offense with his versatility. Brown visited for the Purdue game and the Huskers are an early favorite.

**BRIAN COLE** – The top play in Michigan has long been on Nebraska's radar and the Huskers would likely allow him to determine his position and go from there to see how the fit would work. Cole has great size and length

at 6-foot-2, and he could have even more value on the other side of the ball at cornerback. He visits for the Minnesota game and would be a long shot.

### TAVIN RICHARDSON

– Long been Nebraska's favorite among targets it looks like Richardson will end up playing for Kentucky in the SEC. Nebraska hosted him for the Miami game and both the receiver and his mom had a great experience, but NU has fallen back after a promising start.

### CAMERON STEWART

– A new name from Georgia, Stewart is visiting the Huskers for the Minnesota game in two weeks. He's got great size at 6-foot-3 and good athleticism. He's had a great senior year and is someone the Huskers really liked on film to make the late offer. It's unclear where he's at on the list – but getting him to town is a good start. **N**



# Gangwish grows into an example for other players about value of hardwork

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

**THE FIRST TIME NEBRASKA** defender Jack Gangwish knew he might have a shot at Nebraska came early in his first year.

Gangwish, then a 205-pound walk-on freshman from Scott Frost's hometown of Wood River came helmet to helmet with fullback Tyler Legate in a goal line drill. Gangwish saw stars, but he also saw opportunity.

"I remember this moment like, 'man, that hurt, but I can do this,'" Gangwish said. "This is something I can do."

That was the the first. We'll get to the second in a minute.

The story of the Nebraska walk-on is a familiar one to those around the program. Local kid grows up a Husker fan from the womb, works hard, takes advantage of opportunities and ends up living his dream.

Gangwish isn't much different.

"Walking on, I was small, I was weak, I wasn't very fast," Gangwish said. "A lot of people said I wouldn't be able to have any success here or play on this level. That's hard to hear as a senior in high school looking to play at the next level."

He came to Lincoln as one of 11 walk ons announced on Signing Day in 2011, bringing with him a keen sense of self-awareness and a resolve that he wasn't heading home like so many other walk-ons do. Gangwish knew he wasn't the biggest or the fastest, so he started hitting, and mixing things up with Nebraska's first-team offense.

Let's not glamorize this. Being a walk-on defender is a bit of a meat grinder, running other team's offenses and taking a pounding from Nebraska's first-team offensive line. Gangwish spent his first two years on campus filling rushing lanes as Spencer Long, Mike Caputo, Justin Jackson and other linemen barreled him over. His size and speed weren't going to catch the coaching staff's attention, but he wasn't afraid to let offensive linemen know he was around.

"One thing I knew that was possible for me, was that they would know my name because I wasn't afraid to hit somebody, wouldn't be too scared to mix it up and definitely wouldn't be too scared to work hard," Gangwish said. "That was my gameplan for a couple years here and that's the only reason people knew who I was."

Back to that other turning point in Gangwish's career. Going into his junior season, Gangwish looked at Nebraska's defensive depth chart and saw an opportunity. Nebraska graduated Jason Ankrah, and Avery Moss was likely going to be suspended for at least a year. Gangwish did the math and asked to move to defensive end shortly after Nebraska's Gator Bowl win.

He made the move, then got to work.

Gangwish ended up second on the depth chart, and then when Randy Gregory



**"What's cool to me is there's a large group of younger kids who look up to me and think pretty highly of me because of what I'm doing. I have some contact with the coaches back there, and it sounds like I'm used as motivation for some kids – hard work can pay off and you can achieve more than people would ever expect you to."**

tweaked a knee in the season opener, Gangwish found himself getting major snaps. In seven games, Gangwish has 11 tackles, including three for loss.

Back in Wood River, the kid who some thought would never amount to much, is used as an example for other kids dreaming of bigger things. Sure, there is the memorials for Scott Frost around the school, but Gangwish feels good about what he's done for his community.

"What's cool to me is there's a large group of younger kids who look up to me and think pretty highly of me because of what I'm doing," Gangwish said. "I have some contact with the coaches back there, and it sounds like I'm used as motivation for some kids – hard work can pay off and you can achieve more than people would ever expect you to."

After a recent Nebraska practice, the junior defensive end said he attributes his success to the way he started his career. There are only four players left from Gangwish's original walk-on class. He said not finishing his career as a Husker was never a doubt.

"The thing I looked at it was when I showed up, I'm a hometown Nebraska kid," Gangwish said. "I love Nebraska football. I've been a fan since forever, and the opportunity to be a player was a big deal to me. I knew coming in that if nothing else, I would outlast people. I wouldn't quit and transfer to another school. I wouldn't screw up and get in trouble because I didn't care enough. Through the years my classmates were quitting or transferring out, and I looked around and knew at some point that there weren't going to be enough of them left around and I would be the guy. Mostly, I don't think I was a good enough player to look at it any other way. The only way it was going to work for me was if I was all in 100 percent."

"Had I gone somewhere else, I would have always asked myself if I would have been able to make it here or not. I think I made the right decision."

*Read daily Husker reports from  
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Scouting Report



# Minnesota Golden Gophers

*Minnesota comes into Lincoln following a hard-fought 31-24 loss to Ohio State.* | DOUG GRIFFITHS

Jerry Kill continues to make strides in his building of the Minnesota program.

The Gophers will head to Lincoln fresh off a seven-point home loss to No. 8 Ohio State, but Kill's club is still in position to win the Big Ten's West Division, which could set up a rematch against the Buckeyes in Indianapolis.

Of course if Minnesota is to win the West, it must win at Nebraska and at Wis-

consin.

"Every guy on our team believes that we're a good enough team to win those games," Gopher running back David Cobb said.

Minnesota linebacker De'Vondre Campbell would love another shot at Urban Meyer's team.

"Ohio State is a good team," Campbell said. "They're very disciplined. I think



Sophomore quarterback Mitch Leidner calls a play for the Golden Gophers.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MINNESOTA SPORTS INFORMATION



## THE VITALS

**WHAT:** Minnesota @ #11 Nebraska

**WHEN/WHERE:** 11 a.m., Nov. 22 in Lincoln (Memorial Stadium capacity 87,000)

**TV:** ESPN

**Radio:** The Husker Sports Network broadcasts the action to 27 statewide radio markets. KEAB (1110 AM) serves as the Omaha affiliate and KLIN (1400 AM) serves as the Lincoln affiliate, while KRVN (880 AM) is a third affiliate that reaches around the state. Join Greg Sharpe (play-by-play), Matt Davison (color and co-hosts Husker Game Day Pregame Show), Lane Grindle (sideline/post-game, co-hosts Husker Game Day), Steve Taylor (co-hosts Husker Game Day Show and Big Red Reaction Show) and Matt Coatney (hosts Big Red Reaction Show and helps anchor postgame studio coverage) for all the action. The game can also be heard live on Huskers.com and SIRIUS Satellite Radio.

**COACHES:** Nebraska: Bo Pelini (65-26 overall, 37-16 in the Big Ten, seven seasons). Minnesota: Jerry Kill (24-24 overall, 12-18 in the Big Ten, four seasons).

**SERIES:** Minnesota leads 30-22-2

## MINNESOTA FAST FACTS

**Location:** Minneapolis, Minn.

**Enrollment:** 52,557

**All-Time Football Record:** 666-497-44

**All-Time Big Ten Record:** 336-371-28

**Post-Season Record:** 5-11

**Consensus All-Americans:** 33

**First-Team All-Big Ten Selections:** 180

**Lettermen Returning/Lost:** 48/18

**Starters Returning/Lost:** 16/8 (including specialists)

**Offensive Formation:** Multiple

**Defensive Formation:** 4-3

## DID YOU KNOW?

Minnesota is 8-4 in its last 12 Big Ten games, which is its best 12-game record for since 1967.

## 2014 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Result
Aug. 28	Eastern Illinois	W, 42-20
Sept. 6	Middle Tennessee	W, 35-24
Sept. 13	@ TCU	L, 30-7
Sept. 20	San Jose State	W, 24-7
Sept. 27	@ Michigan	W, 30-14
Oct. 11	Northwestern	W, 24-17
Oct. 18	Purdue	W, 39-38
Oct. 25	@ Illinois	L, 28-24
Nov. 8	Iowa	W, 51-14
Nov. 15	Ohio State	L, 31-24
Nov. 22	@ Nebraska	
Nov. 29	@ Wisconsin	





that has a lot to do with their head coach. He's been in championship programs, so he knows what it takes. But I don't think they're better than us. Honestly, I really don't."

## AS HE GOES, SO GO THE GOPHERS

Minnesota loves to run the ball and it loves to give the ball to star running back David Cobb.

Cobb ranks among the top-10 runners in Gopher history.

He is one of seven Minnesota players ever to have multiple 200-yard rushing games. The team is 9-3 when he rushes for 100-plus.

Last season against Nebraska, Cobb rushed for 138 yards on 31 carries.

## A WINNER

Everywhere he's been, Kill has won.

He turns losers into winners, period. That's what he's done at Minnesota along with Saginaw Valley State, Emporia State and Southern Illinois.

In his 21st year as a head coach, Kill is sporting 144 wins, that's more than all of his Big Ten peers.

## IN A RUSH

Last season Minnesota ran for 2,538 yards (37th nationally) and for 23 touchdowns (most since 2006 when they ran for 25).

The Gophers rushing attempts outnumbered passing attempts by more than 300.

The team is striving to be more balanced this season. However, it has run the ball 469 times and thrown it just 185.

## GOING BOWLING AGAIN

Minnesota will play in its third-straight bowl and in its 17th bowl game in program history.

Once before have the Gophers played in three bowl games in a row. From 2002-06, they appeared in five-straight bowls under former coach Glen Mason.

## REMEMBER WHEN?

**Minnesota 34, No. 24 Nebraska 23**

*Oct. 26, 2013 at Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Quarterback Philip Nelson helped lead the Golden Gophers to a win over the Cornhuskers, something it hadn't done since 1960.

Nelson rushed for two touchdowns and passed for another.

The win made Minnesota bowl eligible.

Taylor Martinez returned from a toe injury, but was limited to just 16 yards rushing on eight carries. He threw for 139 yards with one touchdown and one interception.

Ameer Abdullah rushed for 165 yards on 19 attempts and Pat Smith kicked three field goals.

Nebraska led 10-0 in the first quarter, but trailed 17-13 at the half and 27-20 entering the fourth quarter.

## LAST TIME OUT

**#8 Ohio State 31, Minnesota 24**

*Nov. 15, 2014, Minneapolis, Minn.*

The Golden Gophers put forth a valiant effort against mighty Ohio State, but it wasn't enough as the Buckeyes prevailed on the road.

Ohio State jumped out to a 14-0 lead, but Minnesota tied it at 14 after running back David Cobb scored on a pair of rushes.

The Buckeyes took a 17-14 lead into the locker room after they kicked a 22-yard field goal with no time remaining in the second quarter.

Ohio State scored the next 14 points to take control.

Minnesota had its chances in the second half. A 52-yard field goal hit the upright and a blown coverage led to a wide-open receiver for a touchdown. In addition, a penalty negated a first down and on the Gophers' next snap they threw an interception.

## DID YOU KNOW?

• Minnesota punter Peter Mortell is in the running for the league's best at his position this year, averaging nearly 45 yards per boot.

• Might Jerry Kill be the only Big Ten coach or perhaps the nation who drives a vehicle with over 70,000 miles on it? He drives a white Ford F-150 pickup truck.

• Minnesota hasn't won a Big Ten championship since 1967.

• The Gophers began the season with 13 players who already earned an undergraduate degree. That number was tied for third in the nation with Utah State and trailed only Alabama and Boston College who each had 15.

## Coach Jerry Kill



**Resume:** Kill has at least a .500 record in each of his five stints as a college football head coach. With one more win, he'll have led the Gophers to back-to-back eight-win seasons. Prior to Kill taking over at Minnesota, he was at Northern Illinois (where he was 23-16 in

three seasons), Southern Illinois (55-32), Emporia State (11-11) and Saginaw Valley State (38-14).

## KNOW YOUR FOE

**David Cobb, RB, 5-11, 229, Sr.**



Cobb has rushed for 1,350 yards and 11 touchdowns this season, including 145 in a 31-24 loss to Ohio State. He now has six 100-yard rushing games on the season.

**Damien Wilson, LB, 6-2, 249, Sr.**



Wilson is second in the Big Ten in tackles. He entered the Ohio State game averaging nearly 10 tackles per contest. He finished with eight tackles and a pass break up against OSU.

**Mitch Leidner, QB, 6-4, 237, So.**



Has thrown for 1,310 yards this season with 10 touchdown passes and eight interceptions. Leidner threw for a season-high 240 yards at Illinois and a week later tossed four touchdown passes. He was 7 of 19 for 85 yards and two interceptions against OSU.

## 2013 RESULTS

**(8-5 overall, 4-4 Big Ten)**

Date	Opponent	Result
Aug. 29	UNLV	W, 51-23
Sept. 7	@ New Mexico State	W, 44-21
Sept. 14	Western Illinois	W, 29-12
Sept. 21	San Jose State	W, 43-24
Sept. 28	Iowa	L, 7-23
Oct. 5	@ Michigan	L, 13-42
Oct. 19	@ Northwestern	W, 20-17
Oct. 26	Nebraska	W, 34-23
Nov. 2	@ Indiana	W, 42-39
Nov. 9	Penn State	W, 24-10
Nov. 23	Wisconsin	L, 7-20
Nov. 30	@ Michigan State	L, 3-14
Dec. 27	Syracuse*	L, 17-21

\*Texas Bowl (Houston)



**BIGTEN BEAT** | COMPILED BY DOUG GRIFFITHS

# Phenomenal individual performances highlight Big Ten play in week 12

Nebraska's Randy Gregory wraps up Melvin Gordon during the 59-24 loss to the Badgers.



There were seven games on Nov. 15 that featured Big Ten teams. Three of those had outstanding performances by individual players.

None was better than Wisconsin running back Melvin Gordon, who set an FBS record with 408 yards rushing.

Those are numbers that have never been seen before on a college gridiron.

Gordon had six rushes that gained at least 35 yards. That's three more than Nebraska had allowed all season.

As a result, you have to figure Gordon, who beat the previous record held by LaDainian Tomlinson, has to be now the

frontrunner for the prestigious Heisman Trophy.

Meanwhile a little further north in Minneapolis, Ohio State quarterback J.T. Barrett continued to run away with national newcomer of the year honors as he broke three of Braxton Miller's records.

Barrett now holds OSU records for most TDs in a season (38), most rushing yards by a quarterback in a game (189) and the longest run by a quarterback (86 yards).

And out east at Rutgers, IU running back Tevin Coleman continues to be the best player no one knows about.

Coleman rushed for a career-high 307

## EAST DIVISION

### 2014 Standings

Team	Overall	Conference
Ohio State	9-1	6-0
Michigan State	8-2	5-1
Maryland	6-4	3-3
Michigan	5-5	3-3
Rutgers	6-4	2-4
Penn State	6-4	2-4
Indiana	3-7	0-6

## WEST DIVISION

Team	Overall	Conference
Wisconsin	8-2	5-1
Nebraska	8-2	4-2
Minnesota	7-3	4-2
Iowa	7-3	4-2
Northwestern	4-6	2-4
Illinois	4-6	1-5
Purdue	3-7	1-5

### Nov. 15 Results

Wisconsin 59, Nebraska 24  
Ohio State 31, Minnesota 24  
Iowa 30, Illinois 14  
Rutgers 45, Indiana 23  
Michigan State 37, Maryland 15  
Penn State 30, Temple 13  
Northwestern 43, Notre Dame 40 (OT)  
IDLE: Michigan, Purdue

### Nov. 22 Games

Maryland @ Michigan  
Penn State @ Illinois  
Northwestern @ Purdue  
Wisconsin @ Iowa  
Indiana @ Ohio State  
Minnesota @ Nebraska  
Rutgers @ Michigan State

### Nov. 28 Game

Nebraska @ Iowa

### Nov. 29 Games

Purdue @ Indiana  
Illinois @ Northwestern  
Rutgers @ Maryland  
Minnesota @ Wisconsin  
Michigan @ Ohio State  
Michigan State @ Penn State



yards, the second-best effort ever by an IU back in a single game.

IU won't be going bowling this year, but nine Big Ten teams are and three more still have a chance to get to the needed six-win total.

One of those teams with a shot at going to the postseason is Northwestern, who traveled to Notre Dame knowing it had to win out to get to six wins.

The Wildcats upset the Irish with a thrilling overtime victory.

Following *Huskers Illustrated* recaps Week 12 of football happenings around the Big Ten.

### **EAST DIVISION INDIANA HOOSIERS**

IU's loss at Rutgers made the Hoosiers ineligible for the postseason once again.

IU coach Kevin Wilson, whose team has lost five in a row, has yet to deliver the Hoosiers to a bowl game and is in danger of a second winless Big Ten season in his four years in Bloomington.

Hoosier running back Tevin Coleman was great again, rushing a career-high 32 times for 307 yards, the second most in IU history behind Anthony Thompson's 377 yards in 1989 at Wisconsin.

IU freshman quarterback Zander Diamont was 15-of-31 passing for 179 yards. That's more yardage than he totaled in his first three games combined (102). Diamont threw the first touchdown pass of his career and IU's first in 14 quarters.

### **MARYLAND TERRAPINS**

Maryland is bowl eligible, but has found that Big Ten football is somewhat demanding. The Terrapins lost by 22 points to Michigan State, meaning they have fallen to the Buckeyes, Badgers and Spartans by a combined score of 141-46.

Against the Spartans, quarterback C.J. Brown threw for 246 yards and a pair of touchdowns, but was picked off three times. Maryland's ground attack was non-existent, gaining a mere six yards.

### **MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS**

The Spartans bounced back from their loss to Ohio State with a convincing road

victory at Maryland. Running back Jeremy Langford rushed for 138 yards and two touchdowns. Michigan State's defense was really the story though, sacking Terrapin signal caller C.J. Brown three times and limiting his team to only 252 total yards.

### **MICHIGAN WOLVERINES**

During Michigan's bye week, it got to see a column in the *Detroit Free Press* about how the Wolverine program is now third fiddle in the state of Michigan behind the Detroit Lions and Michigan State Spartans. Former Wolverine line-backer Larry Foote went on a Detroit radio station and said his team needed to go back to the "hood" for recruits.

In the same column, Michigan coach Brady Hoke was called a "lame duck" and a prediction was made that he would be fired at season's end.

### **RUTGERS SCARLET KNIGHTS**

Rutgers became bowl eligible with its home victory over Indiana. Quarterback Gary Nova threw a pair of touchdown passes to Leonte Carroo and Robert Martin ran for three more.

It's the ninth time in 10 seasons that the Scarlet Knights, who snapped a three-game losing skid, are headed to the postseason.

It was a balanced offensive attack for Rutgers, who gained 217 yards passing and 212 rushing. The Scarlet Knights' defense allowed 473 yards.

### **OHIO STATE BUCKEYES**

The Buckeyes ran their record to 9-1 overall, 6-0 in the Big Ten as they got one step closer to returning to the conference championship game next month in Indianapolis. More importantly Ohio State is in the thick of things when it comes to the four-team College Football Playoff.

Barrett was once again the story for the Buckeyes. He threw for three touchdowns and ran for a score in his record-setting performance. Barrett now has 38 touchdowns this season, bettering Miller's mark of 36 from a year ago.

"I had no idea that this is who J.T. Barrett is," Buckeye coach Urban Meyer

said. "Very clear picture of who he is now."

### **PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS**

The Nittany Lions will be going bowling for the first time since 2011 thanks to a nonconference home victory over Temple. Penn State was the beneficiary of five Owl turnovers.

The Lions rushed for a season-high 254 yards. Akeel Lynch had 130 of those.

The game was tied at 6 in the third quarter when Temple turned it over on four-straight possessions.

### **WEST DIVISION**

#### **ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI**

Illinois had a bye week to prepare for Iowa, but its offense didn't look very sharp. The Illini were held to just 88 yards rushing. Quarterback Wes Lunt played for the first time since breaking his leg against Purdue Oct. 4. He threw for 102 yards and one touchdown.

If the Illini don't beat Penn State and Northwestern, they'll miss the postseason for the third-straight season.

#### **IOWA HAWKEYES**

Iowa racked up nearly 600 yards of total offense at Illinois to post a 16-point win. The Hawkeyes ran for a season-high 304 yards thanks, in part, to Mark Weisman's 134 yards. Quarterback Jake Rudock threw for 210 yards and a pair of scores.

#### **MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS**

Minnesota's upset bid against Ohio State came up short, but running back David Cobb was impressive yet again.

He rushed 27 times for 145 yards and three touchdowns.

Nonetheless, the Golden Gophers lost to the Buckeyes for the 37th time in the last 39 games in the series.

#### **NORTHWESTERN WILDCATS**

Pat Fitzgerald's Wildcats are now in great shape to become bowl eligible after a somewhat remarkable overtime win at Notre Dame. If Northwestern beats 3-7 Purdue and 4-6 Illinois, it will get to 6-6.

Against the Irish, the Wildcats snapped



# How Nebraska's 2014 Opponents Fared?



**FLORIDA ATLANTIC**  
Result: L, North Texas 31-10  
Up Next: Middle Tennessee  
Current Record: 3-7



**MCNEESE STATE**  
Result: L, SE Louisiana 28-9  
Up Next: Lamar  
Record: 6-4



**FRESNO STATE**  
Result: W, San Jose State 38-24  
Up Next: Nevada  
Record: 4-6



**MIAMI**  
Result: L, Florida State 30-26  
Up Next: Virginia  
Record: 6-4



**ILLINOIS**  
Result: L, Iowa 30-14  
Up Next: Penn State  
Current Record: 4-6



**MICHIGAN STATE**  
Result: W, Maryland 37-14  
Up Next: Rutgers  
Record: 8-2



**NORTHWESTERN**  
Result: W, Notre Dame 43-40 OT  
Up Next: Purdue  
Record: 4-6



**RUTGERS**  
Result: W, Indiana 45-23  
Up Next: Michigan State  
Record: 6-4



**PURDUE**  
Result: L, Wisconsin 34-16  
Up Next: Northwestern  
Current Record: 3-7



**WISCONSIN**  
Result: W, Nebraska 59-24  
Up Next: Iowa  
Record: 8-2



**MINNESOTA**  
Result: L, Ohio State 31-24  
Up Next: Nebraska  
Record: 7-3



**IOWA**  
Result: W, Illinois 30-14  
Up Next: Wisconsin  
Record: 7-3



a four-game losing streak, rallying from an 11-point fourth quarter deficit to post the unlikely victory.

A fumble by Notre Dame late set up the game-tying 45-yard field goal by Jack Mitchell with 19 seconds remaining in regulation. Then in the extra session, the Irish missed a field goal and Mitchell hit a 41-yarder to win it.

Mitchell kicked four field goals in the game, all of which were longer than his previous career high of 29 yards.

For Fitzgerald, the win was extra sweet, considering he was part of a Northwestern team that beat Notre Dame in 1995, in a game described as "The Upset of the Century."

## PURDUE BOILERMAKERS

In what has been an injury-riddled season for the Boilermakers, they got a little bit of good news during their bye week. Safety Frankie Williams, arguably

the team's best defensive player, might return for the Northwestern game Nov. 22. Williams is trying to return after suffering a concussion against Nebraska. It was the third concussion Williams has suffered. Williams also expects to return punts against the Wildcats.

## WISCONSIN BADGERS

The Badgers overcame three turnovers to seize control of the Big Ten's West Division thanks to their win over visiting Nebraska.

After Gordon set the new rushing standard in the FBS, he said he didn't know he was even close to the record.

LaDarian Tomlinson, who held the previous record, tweeted "That kid @Melvingordon25 bad!! Congrats on breaking the NCAA single game rushing record. #respect."

With the game well in hand, Gordon didn't even play in the fourth quarter.



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# Huskers Illustrated's Projected Nebraska Depth Chart

## DEFENSE

### P/Holder

Sam Foltz  
Johnny Stanton

### FS

Nate Gerry  
Kieron Williams

### SS

Corey Cooper  
D.J. Singleton

### NICKEL

Byerson Cockrell  
Josh Kalu

### LS

Josh Faulkenberry  
Paul Kelly

### WILL

Zaire Anderson  
Courtney Love

### MIKE

Trevor Roach  
Josh Banderas

### BUCK

David Santos  
Marcus Newby

### PR

DeMornay Pierson-El  
Kenny Bell

### CB

Daniel Davie  
Josh Kalu

### WDE

Randy Gregory  
Jack Gangwish

### NT

Vincent Valentine  
Kevin Maurice

### DT

Maliek Collins  
Kevin Williams

### SDE

Greg McMullen  
AJ Natter

### CB

Josh Mitchell  
Boaz Joseph

### WRX

Kenny Bell  
Taariq Allen

### LT

Alex Lewis  
Matt Finnin

### LG

Jake Cotton  
Chongo Kondolo

### C

Mark Pelini  
Ryne Reeves

### RG

Mike Moudy  
Chongo Kondolo

### RT

Zach Sterup  
Givens Price

### TE

Sam Cotton  
Trey Foster

### WRZ

Brandon Reilly  
Alonzo Moore

### WRA

Jordan Westerkamp  
Lane Hovey

### KOS

Mauro Bondi  
Drew Brown

### QB

Tommy Armstrong Jr.  
Ryker Fyfe

### IB

Ameer Abdullah  
Imani Cross

### KR

Kenny Bell  
Alonzo Moore

### PK

Drew Brown  
Spencer Lindsay

### FB

Andy Janovich  
Mitch McCann

## OFFENSE



**Darren Ivy**  
(3-4, 38-32)



**Mike Schaefer**  
(5-2, 49-21)



**Michael Bruntz**  
(4-3, 46-23)



**Bob Hamar**  
(4-3, 42-28)



**Terry Douglass**  
(4-3, 44-26)



**Doug Griffiths**  
(6-1, 49-21)



**Lanny Holstein**  
(5-2, 47-23)

Last Week, Season	Darren Ivy (3-4, 38-32)	Mike Schaefer (5-2, 49-21)	Michael Bruntz (4-3, 46-23)	Bob Hamar (4-3, 42-28)	Terry Douglass (4-3, 44-26)	Doug Griffiths (6-1, 49-21)	Lanny Holstein (5-2, 47-23)
Nebraska vs. Minnesota	NU 24-17	NU 31-21	NU 24-20	NU 34-24	NU 24-21	NU 21-17	NU 27-24
Oklahoma State vs. Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor
USC vs. UCLA	UCLA	USC	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	USC	UCLA
Arizona vs. Utah	Arizona	Utah	Arizona	Utah	Arizona	Utah	Utah
Wisconsin vs. Iowa	Iowa	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin
Ole Miss vs. Arkansas	Arkansas	Ole Miss	Ole Miss	Ole Miss	Ole Miss	Ole Miss	Ole Miss
Kansas State vs. West Virginia	KSU	KSU	KSU	KSU	KSU	West Virginia	KSU





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## Foster relishes role as scout team player



**YOU'VE PROBABLY NEVER HEARD OF DEREK FOSTER, BUT HE DOESN'T REALLY MIND. NEBRASKA'S SCOUT TEAM CORNERBACK HASN'T SEEN A DOWN OF GAME ACTION, AND HE'S IN HIS FIFTH SEASON AS A**

**HUSKER. THERE ARE ONLY A FEW GAMES LEFT IN HIS CAREER, BUT FOSTER KNOWS HIS ROLE AND RELISHES IN IT.**

"When it comes to what I do, obviously, I don't play as big of a role as Randy Gregory, Ameer Abdullah, those type of people, but it's all about accepting what your role is, whether that's scout team or a being practice player," Foster said. "There are multiple parts of the wheel that need to be there, and every part counts, so you just have to accept that."

Foster's role has been to make life hard on Kenny Bell. The two players came to Nebraska with much different expectations and to much different fanfare, but they've formed an important bond. Bell plays on Saturdays, making circus catches and accumulating stats, while Foster watches from the sidelines, waiting for his moment in the sun in the middle of the week.

"It's kind of a mutual bond because I've been going against those guys for like five years now," Foster said of his relationship with Bell and the other senior wide receivers. "Any kind of look that he needs, he lets me know. There's a mutual bond between us for sure."

The relationship between those two players is tight now, one that Foster says will last them the rest of their lives, well beyond any playing days that might continue for Bell in the NFL. The funny part is, it wasn't always that way.

"I used to hate Kenny Bell, but now we're good friends," Foster said. "There's always times during

practice where in the heat of the moment there are words exchanged, but it's nothing serious."

What is serious is the competition between Foster and the starting lineup. Every day in practice is like the Super Bowl for the home state kid. He's going against top tier guys, some of which will go on to the NFL.

It's kind of stuff he will remember for ever, according to Foster.

"It's intense, especially for me coming from Class C type ball to something like this," he said. "It's black and white, how fast you have to think makes it fun. Anything you can do for those guys like Kenny Bell, those guys that are more important in the game, you love to do it."

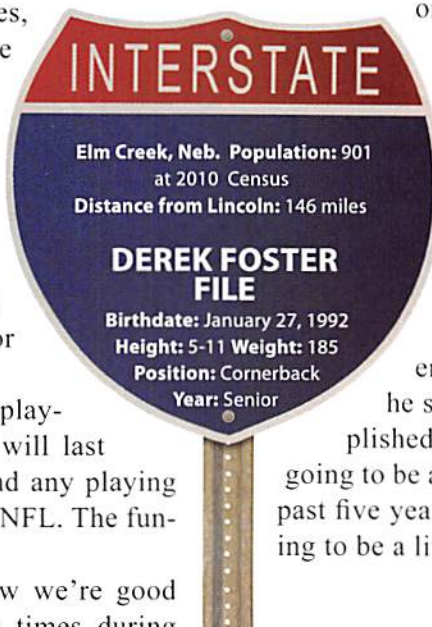
The scout team isn't for everybody, and Foster admits that. But for him, it's a dream come true.

As a kid that grew up in the small Nebraska town of Elm Creek, a town of about 1,000 people, being part of the storied walk-on program and getting a chance to do battle is all he ever wanted.

"I think it is special because you hear about some of the championship teams being built on the walk-ons through the years," he said. "It's really the only walk-on tradition you hear about around the nation, so I might be biased, but I think it's something special."

That special role is coming to an end for Foster. With only Minnesota, Iowa and possibly a couple postseason games left, the cornerback said he's going to have a tough time keeping it together.

"There's definitely going to be some emotions in there, some mixed feelings," he said. "You know, we're done, we accomplished a lot, but at the same time, it's definitely going to be a sad thing. This is all I've known for the past five years. Transitioning to the real world is going to be a little sentimental."



~ Story by Lanny Holstein





JimmyRash/Huskies Illustrated

Derek Foster (30) carries the flag out before the Florida Atlantic game.

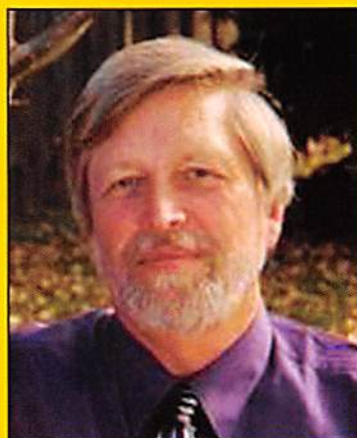
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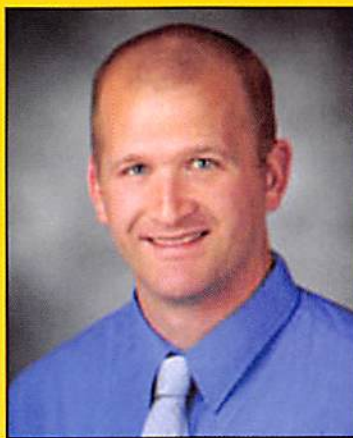
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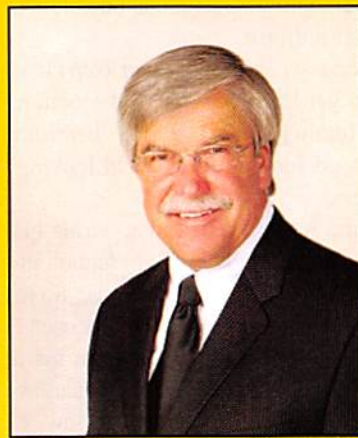
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MLS



# Catching up with **DAVE HUMM**

Quarterback 1972-1974

By Butch Rasmussen/Huskers Illustrated

**If you were a Husker football fan 40 years ago you'll remember the name. He was a smooth throwing quarterback with movie star good looks. He was the dealer from Las Vegas. He was Dave Humm.**

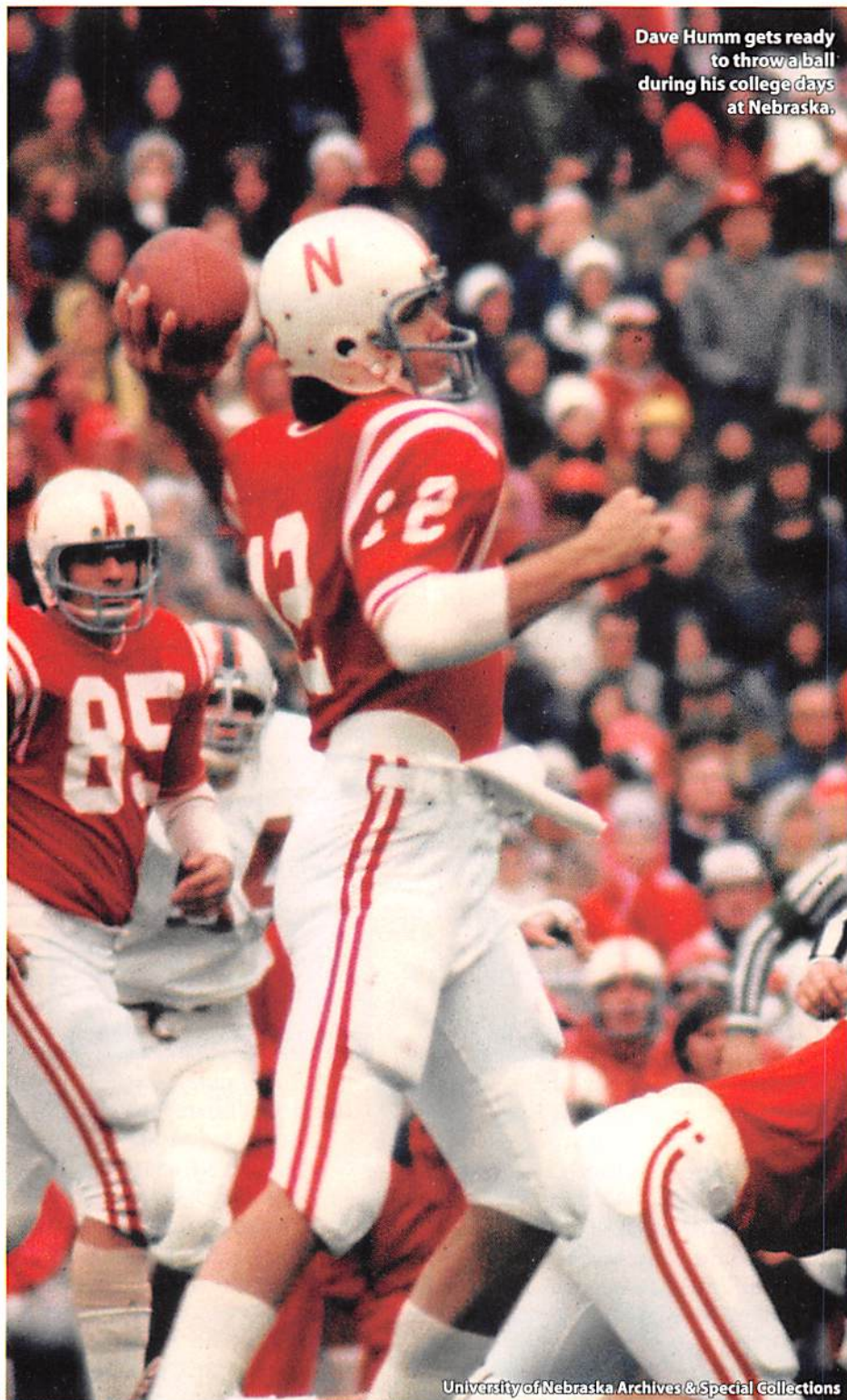
Humm was a rare commodity at Nebraska during his playing days from 1972-74. A pro-style quarterback with few rushing yards but a dozen rushing touchdowns during his three-year career in Lincoln, Humm drew acclaim from many at the next level as the best pure passer in college football. Bet you didn't know we ever had one of those in a Husker uniform.

Pure passer is right. When Tom Osborne tried to get him to adapt to the option offense Humm politely declined. It wasn't his style to go running down field looking for trouble.

Humm was a wanted man during his recruiting days while in high school in his home town of Las Vegas, Nevada. So much so that Alabama's famed football coach Paul "Bear" Bryant came knocking on his door one day with former "Bama" quarterback and AFL legend Joe Namath in tow. They hoped to convince Humm that Alabama was the place for him for the next 4 years. "Welcome to Alabama, the Bear wants you," said Namath.

"The recruiting process was never-ending," Humm said. "I took 12 trips on 12-straight weekends and met hundreds of people. There were stacks of mail and coaches would show up during the week and take my family to dinner and to Vegas shows. It was just an amazing time."

Humm distinctly remembers playing



Dave Humm gets ready to throw a ball during his college days at Nebraska.

University of Nebraska Archives & Special Collections



three Big Ten teams in a row during his senior year in 1974. There were victorious routs of Northwestern 49-7 and Minnesota 54-0 and a one-point loss to Wisconsin in Madison 21-20.

"That Wisconsin game was very frustrating," Humm said. "We played that game at Madison, and I suffered a hip pointer early in the game which was very painful. I made an effort to stay in the game but I just couldn't do it."

Without Humm, the prolific pro-style passer, for much of the game Nebraska had only 47 passing yards while Wisconsin put up 242 through the air.

"What a disappointment," Humm said. "We felt better after the Northwestern game in Lincoln, a 49-7 rout. We were ahead at the half 35-7 and kinda overwhelmed Northwestern. The next week we played Minnesota in Lincoln and earned another big win, blanking the Gophers 54-0."

In the first quarter in that game, he threw his 33rd career touchdown pass, which reset

the record of 32 by Jerry Tagge from 1969-71.

"Overall, pretty satisfying," he recalled. "Three Big Ten teams in a row and outscoring them 123-28."

An example of Humm's fire power came two weeks later at Kansas when he completed 23 of 27 passes for 230 yards and three touchdowns. His completion percentage of .852 was both a Big 8 record and a Nebraska record. It gave him 36 career TD passes, which was also a conference mark. Amazingly Humm hit 15-consecutive passes in that game, which set both a national and Big 8 record for the time. That week Humm was named AP Back of the Week, Big 8 Offensive Player-of-the-Week and *Sports Illustrated's* Offensive Player-of-the-Week.

Humm became a first team All-America and a Heisman Trophy finalist during his senior season at Nebraska in 1974 and has been inducted into the Nebraska Football Hall Of Fame and the Southern Nevada Sports Hall of Fame.

Humm was drafted by the Oakland Raiders, played in three Super Bowls with the Raiders and owns two championship rings – one for Super Bowl XI when the Raiders defeated the Minnesota Vikings and the second ring came in the Raiders' victory over the Washington Redskins in Super Bowl XVIII.

After his days in a football uniform he moved on to work in the Raiders broadcast booth. Sadly, today, all is not humming in Dave's world. It was nearly 25 years ago that Humm was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, which cost him the use of his legs by 1997 and currently has him wheelchair bound. But the spunk and spirit is still there, evidenced by a phone call from Humm to this writer during the holidays in 2012: This is Dave ho, ho, ho, ho, Humm.

Humm loved Nebraska football and says he'd be back before dark tonight if he had the chance to do it all over again.

And he had one more thing to say. "Love you, friend."

## Advertising Section

# HUSKERS IN BUSINESS

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**Nov. 22, 1969**

No. 16-ranked Nebraska clinched a share of the Big Eight Conference championship by posting a 44-14 road victory at Oklahoma. The Cornhuskers, who shared the title with Missouri, finished the regular season 8-2 and locked up a Sun Bowl bid. NU running back Jeff Kinney rushed for 127 yards and scored three touchdowns, while the defense snapped Sooners quarterback Steve Owens' string of consecutive 100-yard rushing games at 17, limiting him to 71 yards on the ground.

**Nov. 23, 1974**

Sixth-ranked Nebraska failed to hold on to a 14-7 third-quarter lead as No. 1 Oklahoma rallied for 21 unanswered points, including fourth-quarter TD runs by quarterback Steve Davis and halfback Elvis Peacock, to win 28-14 at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln. OU didn't have a single passing yard, but rushed for 482 and had three players surpass the 100-yard rushing mark in fullback Jim Litterell (147), halfback Joe Washington (112) and Davis (142). The Huskers were intercepted four times, including three picks thrown by quarterback Dave Humm, who finished with 168 yards passing.

**Nov. 24, 2006**

Nebraska earned a trip to the Big 12 Conference championship game with a 37-14 home victory over Colorado as quarterback Zac Taylor completed 18-of-29 pass attempts for 249 yards and two TDs, setting what was at the time a single-season school record with 2,789 passing yards. Huskers' I-back Brandon Jackson finished with 190 all-purpose yards, including 142 yards rushing on a career-high 34 attempts. NU also scored on a trick play as backup quarterback Joe Ganz connected with defensive end Barry Turner for a 29-yard TD pass on a fake field-goal attempt, helping to send the Buffaloes to a 2-10 finish.

**Nov. 25, 2005**

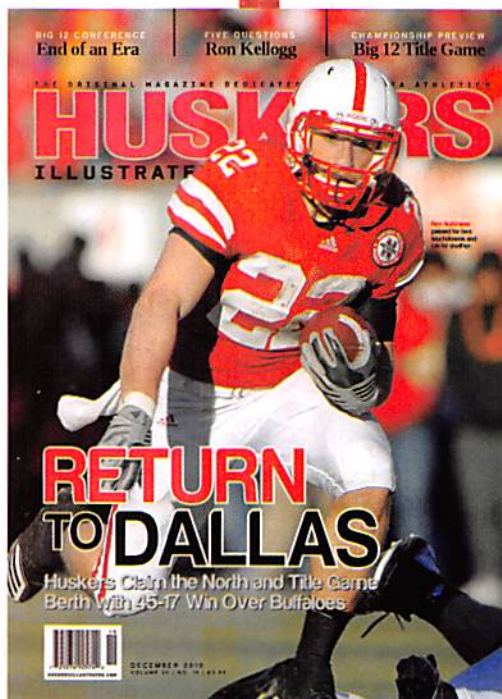
After yielding a field goal, Nebraska's defense held Colorado scoreless on its final 12 possessions on its way to a dominant 30-3 road victory over the favored Buffaloes at Folsom Field in Boulder. Quarterback Zac Taylor led the Huskers, connecting on 27-of-43 pass attempts for 392 yards and two TDs with no interceptions. I-back Cory Ross finished with nine receptions for 129 yards for NU, which finished the regular season 7-4 and earned a bid to the Alamo Bowl where it defeated Michigan 32-28.

**Nov. 26, 2010**

Not only did Rex Burkhead rush for 101 yards and a TD, but the Nebraska I-back also threw a pair of scoring passes as No. 16 Nebraska routed Colorado 45-17 at Memorial Stadium.

With starting quarterback Taylor Martinez sidelined by toe and ankle injuries, the Huskers were able to take the pressure off backup quarterback Cody Green by giving Burkhead an increased role. A quarterback during his sophomore year in high school, Burkhead helped Nebraska to a 17-3 halftime lead with a 26-yard TD pass to Brandon Kinnie.

Later, Burkhead took a shotgun snap out of the wildcat formation and tossed a 4-yard scoring pass to tight end Kyler Reed. "Nothing Rex Burkhead does surprises me," Nebraska head coach Bo Pelini told the Associated Press in a postgame interview. "He's what a football player is supposed to be. They ought to put his picture next to it in the dictionary. He just does so many things to help you." Despite wrapping up the Big 12 Conference's North Division title, there wasn't a trophy presentation following the game. Nebraska athletics department officials were told that Big 12 commissioner Dan Beebe had safety concerns about traveling to Lincoln after his office received angry correspondence from fans who were upset about the officiating of Nebraska games as the Huskers played their final season in the conference before leaving for the Big Ten.



**Nov. 27, 2009**

Despite being outgained 403-217 in total offensive yards, Nebraska was opportunistic on its way to a 28-20 road victory over Colorado. The Huskers opened the scoring with a 59-yard punt return for a TD by Niles Paul with 3:34 remaining in the first quarter and later added a 20-yard interception return for a score by safety Matt O'Hanlon with 3:16 left before halftime to build a 21-7 lead at the intermission. Rex Burkhead led NU with 100 yards rushing on 18 attempts.

**Nov. 28, 1987**

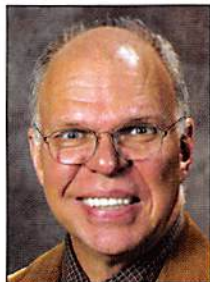
I-back Keith Jones rushed for a career-high 248 yards, including ripping off scoring runs of 50 and 44 yards, as fifth-ranked Nebraska downed Colorado 24-7 to earn a Fiesta Bowl bid. The Cornhuskers, who were coming off a 17-7 loss the previous week as the country's No. 1 team against Oklahoma, bounced back to rush for 419 yards and limited the Buffaloes' wishbone offense to 147 yards on the ground – 175 below their season average.



# Coaches Corner

with Bill Straub

Head Women's Bowling Coach



Huskers Illustrated reporter Lanny Holstein recently visited with Nebraska women's bowling coach Bill Straub, who has been the head coach of the program since 1996. He is attempting to win back-to-back national championships this season to go along with the other titles won in 1991, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2009 and 2013. The Huskers hosted the Big Red Invitational at Sun Valley Lanes on Nov. 13-15 and then head to the Track Cat Clash on Nov. 21-23 in Houston, Texas. The NCAA Championships are April 9-11 in St. Louis, Missouri.

**HI:** Do you like having that No. 1 ranking on your back?

**BS:** This is a popularity contest. When that first poll comes out, it's a preseason poll, so there's limited information on the other teams. It mostly has to do with who did well last year, then they take it from there.

**HI:** It has to be good having Liz Kuhlkin on the team for another year.

**BS:** She's the best player in the country. She just won a gold medal at the Olympic Games in Hong Kong this summer as an individual. Nobody can touch her. Would you rather have that somewhere else? Not hardly. You want her with you.

**HI:** What did you learn about your team after the Crusader Classic?

**BS:** That we are deeper than we've ever been. It doesn't mean that the top five, the ones that play all the time are better in years gone by, but in one way we've never been better. Sometimes it's good, sometimes it's bad. Only five play, so I have to see who is playing well at the right time. I'm not doing my job very well, if I don't."

**HI:** How involved is your assistant, Paul Klempa, in coaching the team?

**BS:** He was a player here when we were allowed to have both the men's team and the women's team. He was All-American as a player and was gracious enough to stay and learn how to do the coaching thing. He's an excellent coach. There's nobody in the country that's better at coaching than he is."

**HI:** You had the Big Red Invitational this past week. Do you enjoy hosting that tournament?

**BS:** These days, it's getting harder to travel. Not only do the kids not want the bother of hopping from one airport to the next, but they can sleep in their own bed to boot. We give the home folks a little bit of a chance to see what's going on with Husker bowling. Our tournament happens to have more quality teams than any tournament in the country, so it's a great field, a great setting."

## This Week



## Husker Athletics

### Friday, Nov. 21

#### *Women's Bowling*

Track Kat Klash in Houston, Texas

#### *Women's Gymnastics*

Intrasquad Meet at Mabel Lee Hall

#### *Swimming & Diving*

Missouri Invitational at Columbia, Mo.

### Saturday, Nov. 22

#### *Football*

Minnesota @ Memorial Stadium at 11 a.m.

#### *Swimming & Diving*

Missouri Invitational at Columbia, Mo.

#### *Women's Bowling*

Track Kat Klash in Houston, Texas

#### *Rifle*

Kentucky @ Fairbanks, Alaska

#### *Wrestling*

Duke @ Durham, N.C.

North Carolina State @ Raleigh, N.C.

#### *Men's Basketball*

Rhode Island at Kingston, Rhode Island

#### *Women's Volleyball*

Michigan @ Bob Devaney Sports Center

### Sunday, Nov. 23

#### *Cross Country*

NCAA Championships at Terre Haute, Ind.

#### *Women's Bowling*

Track Kat Klash in Houston, Texas

#### *Rifle*

Alaska @ Fairbanks, Alaska

#### *Women's Basketball*

Utah at Bob Devaney Sports Center

### Tuesday, Nov. 25

#### *Men's Basketball*

Omaha @ Pinnacle Bank Arena



# ALEX GORDON TRAINING COMPLEX



Alex and Jamie Gordon stand in front of a plaque in their honor in the Alex Gordon Training Complex in Lincoln.

## BIG RED ROYALTY

Story By BRIAN ROSENTHAL • Photos Courtesy Of NU SPORTS INFORMATION

October was normally the time of year Alex Gordon returned to his hometown of Lincoln, replaced his blue Kansas City Royals cap for a red one and, on a crisp, fall Saturday, enjoyed a Nebraska football tailgate with friends and family, in some reserved lots west of Memorial Stadium.

Excuse Gordon, a Husker football fan at heart, if he's yet to attend a Nebraska football game this season.

The former Nebraska baseball All-American and Lincoln Southeast graduate was a little busy, with the Royals in the playoffs and World Series for the first time since 1985, when Gordon was all of 20 months old.

From the College World Series to the World Series, Gor-

don, arguably the cornerstone of the Royals' franchise, has finally almost met his dream, although he surely would have liked to not been stranded at third base in the bottom of the ninth in game seven.

"It's just another chapter, really," Gordon said. "It's been great. It's been an up-and-down battle throughout my career. Now everything's playing pretty well, and it's fun to be part of a winning team and a winning organization."

Gordon finished the regular season batting .266, with a team-leading 19 home runs and 74 RBIs, helping Kansas City, which placed second in the American League's Central Division, earn a wild card berth into the playoffs.

In helping the Royals sweep their way through the Ameri-

can League Divisional Series and American League Championship Series, Gordon had nine RBIs, including a 10th-inning home run in the ALCS in Baltimore.

A long journey, certainly, for a player burdened with unwieldy expectations from the moment he was drafted in 2005.

In his decade-plus time broadcasting Royals games on television and radio, Ryan Lefebvre said he's never seen so much pressure heaped on a young player like that heaped on Gordon nearly 10 years ago.

"I'll never forget it," Lefebvre said. "What comes to my mind with Alex Gordon? Opening Day, 2007, (against Boston pitcher) Curt Schilling, and (Gordon) comes up with the bases loaded, and I

mean before he even dropped the pine tar rag on the on deck circle – a standing ovation."

Gordon, by the way, struck out.

"To just begin his career like that," Lefebvre said, "and not have any chance to just kind of ease into being a Major Leaguer ... I mean, he was anointed a future star before he even got to the plate the first time."

A third baseman then, Gordon, fair or not, was compared to Hall of Famer George Brett, not only because he played the same position as Brett, but because he also had an eerily similar batting stance, and also was left-handed.

One difference?

"George famously said, 'I wish I had the talent that Alex has,'" Lefebvre said.



Still, it took Gordon a demotion to the minor leagues in 2010, when he resurrected his career by moving to the outfield, before he blossomed into the player many expected. Since rejoining the Royals as a left fielder later that season, Gordon has more than 60 outfield assists. That included a career-high and major league-best 20 in 2011.

Oh, and he's also won four Gold Gloves, with the latest being awarded for the season that just concluded. It's why Royals outfield coach Rusty Kuntz points to Gordon as his model player when bringing up and coaching young outfielders in the Royals' organization.

"In a conversation with a couple of our younger guys, I told them flat out, I said, 'Here's my take on it: In my 35 years, Alex is by far the best left fielder I've ever seen – not that I've had a chance to work with, but that I've ever seen, period,'" Kuntz said. "I mean, the things that he does athletically – the read, the route the range – all the stuff defensively, and to bring that with a bat, too?"

"On my list of top three guys, Alex is my left fielder, Ken Griffey, Jr., is my center fielder and Jay Buhner's my right fielder, of players that I've had in the past. They've all won a Gold Glove. But the one thing they all have in common is their work ethic. Junior, when he was 19, he had a lot of energy, but he knew what he had to do to get ready for a game. Jay Buhner just worked his tail off."

Gordon's cut from the same cloth, his relentless work ethic, strict regimen, professionalism and demeanor largely responsible for helping Kansas City end its 29-year playoff drought.

"It's a discredit to talk about it," Royals first baseman Eric



From left: NU baseball coach Darin Erstad, NU softball coach Rhonda Revelle, Jamie Gordon, Alex Gordon and athletic director Sean Eichorst cut the ribbon in 2013 for the Alex Gordon Training Complex at UNL.

Hosmer said. "Because you really have to see what he does throughout the course of the day to realize how incredible his routine is every day."

When Kuntz arrives at the ball park at noon, in preparation for a night game, he walks through the clubhouse doors and sees Gordon, who has a daily plan for weights, aquatics and batting cages.

"Seven hours before the first pitch," Kuntz said. "And his whole day is just ... you never see him just sitting in front of his locker just watching TV or something like that. He doesn't get here early just to get away from the people outside."

"Like 5:30 or 5:45 he'll get down with BP and he'll go in and trainers will put him on this program that he does. You just go, 'This guy's been here 5, 6 hours before the game and this guy never stop."

"He's got certain things he does at certain times every day to prepare himself, and that's why he plays 150, 160 games every year, because of that kind of stuff," Kuntz said. "We're trying to get everybody else on the same program."

So respected is Gordon that

coaches and players don't have to explain to minor leaguers what Gordon is all about – they can just merely tell them to watch Gordon and emulate everything he does.

"I don't know if there's a more respected player in the league by everybody – young guys, veteran guys, middle-of-the-road guys, coaches, managers," Lefebvre said. "There's 29 other teams that would love to have Alex Gordon."

Most impressive to Lefebvre may be the consistent approach and attitude Gordon takes every game, every day.

Never too high, never too low.

"He's the ultimate Major Leaguer," Lefebvre said, "in that if you just put a camera on Alex – let's say we televise Royals games and we just put a camera on Alex at home plate, and when he swung the bat, you don't know if he popped up, you don't know if he hit a home run, you don't know if he got a single – if you just watched him, you'd never be able to tell whether he was 4-for-4 or 0-for-4."

"And when he was one of the top prospects in the game,

he was the same he was as when some were considering him a bust. And he was the same when he was an All-Star. And he's the same when he hits a walk-off home run as he is when he pops out to end the game."

Among the young players who's taken notice of Gordon's regimen, routine and work ethic is Lane Adams, who made his Major League debut with the Royals as a September call-up. His locker was next to Gordon in the Royals' clubhouse.

Adams, also an outfielder, said he picks Gordon's brain – when he's around. Gordon, remember, isn't one to sit around idle.

"He's a great role model. He works harder than anyone I've seen," Adams said. "He's a leader. He shows you what it takes to be an All-Star, a Gold Glover in this league, and a major contributor to a playoff team."

"He had his struggles early in his career, and he's overcome that to be who he is now. It really puts it into perspective what you have to do to make it at this level."



# Walter's World

Story By BRIAN ROSENTHAL Photos By MITCH OTTO

Walter Pitchford isn't certain how the tradition really began, only that he had no true purpose or intent behind it.

Regardless, more often than not, Pitchford begins a Nebraska basketball game by firing a three-pointer from the wing.

Most times, it goes in.

"Coach has never got mad at me for shooting, so why not shoot?" Pitchford said, giving his rationalization. "I'm really good at it, and I'm going to continue it."

OK, fine, but the first shot of almost every game?

Pitchford smiles and shakes his head.

"The first time I did it, I guess I just made the shot, and then the next game I did the same thing by accident," Pitchford said. "It wasn't by me thinking about it. It just happened. And then after a while, people were like, 'Do you know you take the first shot of every game?' I was like, 'No I didn't.' And I actually didn't know I took the first shot of every game."

"After they told me that, I started thinking about it a little more, 'Like, OK, yeah I do take the first shot.' I guess people on my team just knew I was going to take the first shot, too."

Opponents, of course, eventually caught on, as well.

That didn't matter to Pitchford.

"Even if other teams knew I was going to take the first shot, it still didn't bother me," he said, "because if we execute the right way, it doesn't matter."

Pitchford, a 6-foot-10, 237-pound junior, may play the role of a big man, but his shooting range is among the best in the nation for a player with his size. It makes him a matchup nightmare for opponents, and gives Nebraska a deadly offensive weapon.

How deadly?

Pitchford shot 41 percent on three-pointers last season – the best mark on Nebraska's team, and the seventh-best three-point percentage among Big Ten players.

But the question remains this season: Will Pitchford score more inside the paint?

"More than I did last year, I can say that," Pitchford said. "I'm comfortable with my back to the basket. I've been working on my hook shots, just reading the defense."

It's not the only area in which Pitchford, who started 31 of 32 games as a sophomore, has worked to improve.







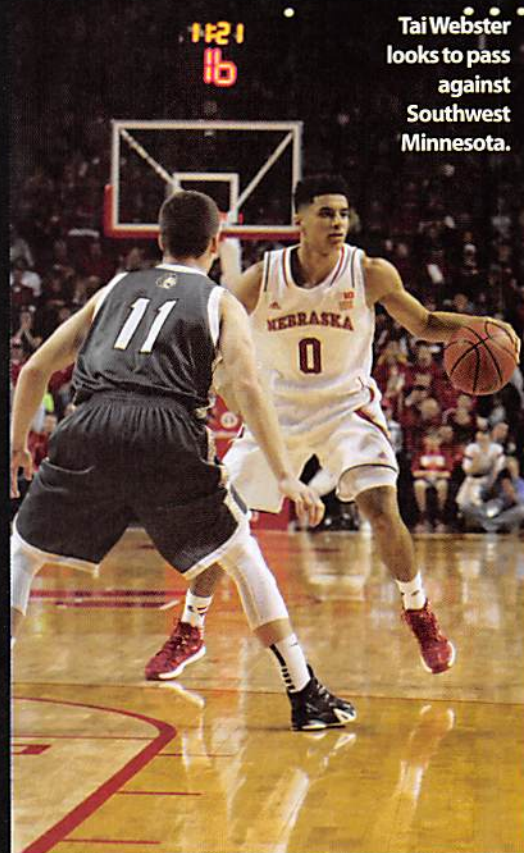
## 2014-15 Men's Basketball Schedule

Nov. 6, 2014	SW Minnesota (Exh)	Pinnacle Bank Arena	W, 83-61
Nov. 16, 2014	Northern Kentucky	Pinnacle Bank Arena	1 p.m.
Nov. 18, 2014	Central Arkansas	Pinnacle Bank Arena	7 p.m.
Nov. 22, 2014	at Rhode Island	Kingston, R.I.	6 p.m.
Nov. 25, 2014	Nebraska-Omaha	Pinnacle Bank Arena	7 p.m.
Nov. 28, 2014	Tennessee-Martin	Pinnacle Bank Arena	TBA
Dec. 1, 2014	at Florida State	Tallahassee, Fla.	6 p.m.
Dec. 7, 2014	Creighton	Pinnacle Bank Arena	6 p.m.
Dec. 10, 2014	Incarnate Word	Pinnacle Bank Arena	7 p.m.
Dec. 13, 2014	Cincinnati	Pinnacle Bank Arena	8 p.m.
Dec. 22, 2014	at Hawaii	Honolulu, Hawaii	11:59 p.m.
Dec. 23, 2014	Wich. State/Loyola	Honolulu, Hawaii	TBA
Dec. 25, 2014	TBA	Honolulu, Hawaii	TBA
Dec. 31, 2014	Indiana *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	TBA
Jan. 5, 2015	at Iowa *	Iowa City, Iowa	8 p.m.
Jan. 8, 2015	Rutgers *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	8 p.m.
Jan. 11, 2015	Illinois *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 15, 2015	at Wisconsin *	Madison, Wisconsin	8 p.m.
Jan. 20, 2015	Minnesota *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 24, 2015	Michigan State *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	TBA
Jan. 27, 2015	at Michigan *	Ann Arbor, Mich.	6 p.m.
Jan. 31, 2015	at Minnesota *	Minneapolis, Minn.	5 p.m.
Feb. 3, 2015	Northwestern *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 7, 2015	at Penn State *	State College, Penn.	3 p.m.
Feb. 10, 2015	Wisconsin *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	8 p.m.
Feb. 15, 2015	at Purdue *	West Lafayette, Ind.	4:15 p.m.
Feb. 19, 2015	at Maryland *	College Park, Md.	6 p.m.
Feb. 22, 2015	Iowa *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	TBA
Feb. 26, 2015	at Ohio State *	Columbus, Ohio	6 p.m.
March 4, 2015	at Illinois *	Champaign, Ill.	9 p.m.
March 8, 2015	Maryland *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	TBA
March 11, 2015	Big Ten Tournament	Chicago, Ill.	TBA
March 12, 2015	Big Ten Tournament	Chicago, Ill.	TBA
March 13, 2015	Big Ten Tournament	Chicago, Ill.	TBA
March 14, 2015	Big Ten Tournament	Chicago, Ill.	TBA
March 15, 2015	Big Ten Tournament	Chicago, Ill.	TBA
March 17, 2015	NCAA Tournament	TBA	TBA
*	Conference Games		

Nebraska 83, SW Minnesota 61



Shavon Shields makes a move against Southwest Minnesota.



Tai Webster looks to pass against Southwest Minnesota.



Terran Petteway dunks the ball for Nebraska against Southwest Minnesota in NU's only exhibition game.



Mitch Otto/Huskies Illustrated



Now a veteran on a team with only two scholarship seniors, Pitchford knows he must mature as a player, and even a leader, not letting little things get to him, or to the team. The latter was true at times last season for a very young team, especially during the season's first half.

"Last year, frustration was something that was happening a few times during practices and games, stuff like that," Pitchford said. "Being a veteran player – and there aren't many veteran players on our team – it's more of recognizing what our program is and making sure you're taking care of it.

"The problem was the frustration. There was no composure. There's a lot of us who have stepped up and tried to keep our composure at all times, because if you let other teams get the best of us and we lose our composure, then that's when you have your mental breakdown and teams go on a 15-0 run."

Like, for instance, the Creighton game last season. A veteran Bluejay team was firing on all cylinders, jumped to an 18-2 lead and led by as many as 32 points in the first half of their 82-67 victory in Omaha.

"Creighton was a big one. We got frustrated a lot, they were hitting a lot of shots," Pitchford said, while also referring to a similar scenario in a loss at Michigan. "We were upset, but at the same time we were frustrated, and frustrated at each other. We lost our composure during those games, and you could see mentally, we were kind of weak.

"Other teams capitalized off of it. They were confident. They knew they had us once they saw that we couldn't regroup and fix the composure."

For Nebraska, last year's sophomores are now juniors – another year under their belts with more maturity, something Pitchford has seen in practice.

"We haven't all played together for a long time, but we're doing a good job of keying in on just the little things," he said. "If somebody messes up, or in practice we'll have drills when we're up by one or we're down by one, and there's a certain amount of time, and we have to make the great pass, the great play, and not just the good pass or the good play or the good shot.

"Everything has to be exact. That's a great thing about our team this year, because our maturity level really has gone up. We're paying attention to every detail that we do."

Nebraska coach Tim Miles said he's seen "a great amount of maturity" from Pitchford, compared to last season.

Miles pointed to Nebraska's exhibition game against Southwest Minnesota State, when Pitchford was held scoreless over 23 minutes of action.

He took only two shots – yes, both three-pointers, and yes, one to begin the game.

"They were going to try to not give him any shots, and I didn't run anything for him. He took his first shot from the left wing and he was short, then he shot another one early in the second half," Miles said.

"When he was on the bench, he was for the team, 'Coach, I'm ready when you need me.' Last year I might have got a Walter that wasn't quite as mentally into it. He might have been more concerned about himself. But he was more concerned about how the team was doing. I think that says a lot about Walt and his buy-in, and his maturity."

## 2014-15 Women's Basketball Schedule

Nov. 2, 2014	Wayne State (Exh)	Pinnacle Bank Arena	W, 84-43
Nov. 9, 2014	Concordia-St. Paul (Exh)	Pinnacle Bank Arena	W, 78-46
Nov. 15, 2014	Pepperdine	Pinnacle Bank Arena	W, 100-65
Nov. 16, 2014	Alcorn State	Pinnacle Bank Arena	5 p.m.
Nov. 19, 2014	at Washington State	Pullman, Wash.	10 p.m.
Nov. 23, 2014	Utah	Bob Devaney Center	1 p.m.
Nov. 28, 2014	at UCLA	Los Angeles, Calif.	3 p.m.
Nov. 30, 2014	Northern Colorado	Pinnacle Bank Arena	2 p.m.
Dec. 3, 2014	Duke	Pinnacle Bank Arena	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 7, 2014	at Alabama	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	2 p.m.
Dec. 11, 2014	at Creighton	Omaha, Neb.	8:05 p.m.
Dec. 13, 2014	Bakersfield	Pinnacle Bank Arena	2 p.m.
Dec. 20, 2014	High Point	Pinnacle Bank Arena	3 p.m.
Dec. 29, 2014	at Minnesota *	Minneapolis, Minn.	8 p.m.
Jan. 3, 2015	Maryland *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	3 p.m.
Jan. 8, 2015	at Michigan State *	East Lansing, Mich.	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 11, 2015	at Illinois *	Champaign, Illinois	2 p.m.
Jan. 15, 2015	Penn State *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	6 p.m.
Jan. 19, 2015	Purdue *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	6 p.m.
Jan. 22, 2015	at Wisconsin *	Madison, Wisconsin	7 p.m.
Jan. 26, 2015	at Iowa *	Iowa City, Iowa	8 p.m.
Jan. 29, 2015	Illinois *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	7 p.m.
Feb. 1, 2015	Michigan *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	2 p.m.
Feb. 5, 2015	at Rutgers *	Piscataway, N.J.	6 p.m.
Feb. 8, 2015	at Maryland *	College Park, MD	3 p.m.
Feb. 12, 2015	Iowa *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	8 p.m.
Feb. 15, 2015	Wisconsin *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	2 p.m.
Feb. 18, 2015	at Northwestern *	Evanston, Illinois	7 p.m.
Feb. 21, 2015	at Indiana *	Bloomington, Ind.	TBA
Feb. 24, 2015	Minnesota *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	8 p.m.
March 1, 2015	Ohio State *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	TBA
March 4, 2015	Big Ten Tournament	Chicago, Ill.	TBA
March 5, 2015	Big Ten Tournament	Chicago, Ill.	TBA
March 6, 2015	Big Ten Tournament	Chicago, Ill.	TBA
March 7, 2015	Big Ten Tournament	Chicago, Ill.	TBA
March 8, 2015	Big Ten Tournament	Chicago, Ill.	TBA
March 20, 2015	NCAA Tournament	TBA	TBA
*	Conference Games		

Pitchford, a native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, transferred to Nebraska after playing his true freshman season at Florida.

Pitchford still believes he could be playing, and even starting, for a Florida program he said he still loves, but knows he made the right decision to come to Lincoln.

"I focused more. I woke up a little bit. I'm just seeing things a little different now, seeing things a little different, how you can get sidetracked some places," Pitchford said.

"Nebraska is the best place for me. Me coming here, Nebraska has changed me into a better player."



## CROSS COUNTRY

The Nebraska cross country team ended the season at the NCAA Midwest Regional Friday afternoon in Peoria, Ill. The men's team finished 20th out of 29 teams, while the women's team finished 29th out of 32 teams.

The Huskers finished behind meet champions Oklahoma State on the men's side, and Iowa State on the women's.

Coach David Harris was disappointed in how the team performed, noting that the team did not bring the same intensity it brought at last year's regional, or even at the Big Ten Championships this season.

"Unlike last year, when I felt like the men's team really competed hard and performed really well, we just did not try enough today," Harris said. "We don't seem to get out in races very well, and that has been a real problem for us this season, on both the men's and women's teams. We did not get out and hold our positions well today at all."

Harris added that not having a runner finish in the top-50 was the biggest disappointment of all.

"That hurts not getting any of those low points," the coach said. "You can't start at such a high point like we did today, and then try and battle back, passing 100 runners."

Anna Peer led the way for the women's team. A native of Bettendorf, Iowa, Peer placed 55th, falling short of her quest to reach the NCAA Championships.

On the men's side, sophomore Joe Harter led the way for NU, placing 76th. Junior Jonah Heng also did well, finishing 95th.

Joseph Harter competes for NU at the Wood Green Invite earlier this season.



## MEN'S GYMNASTICS

Coach Chuck Chmelka and the Nebraska men's gymnastics team announced the addition of two high-profile recruits for the 2015-16 season. Jordan King and Anton Stephenson will join NU next fall, adding key skills and depth to the team's lineups.

"We are very excited about signing Anton Stephenson and Jordan King," the coach said. "Jordan is currently on the USA Junior National Team after a great finish at the P&G Championships this year. Anton has consistently been in the top 10 in his age group throughout his junior career. Both are consistent in the all-around and both will contribute immediately to our team."

King, a native of The Woodlands, Texas, is a level 10 gymnast who trains at Cypress Academy of Gymnastics under coach Tom Meadows. King competed at the 2014 P&G Championships, finishing fourth in the all-around

and second on pommel horse and parallel bars in the junior men's age 15-16 division.

Stephenson is a level 10 gymnast who trains at Deveau's School of Gymnastics under coach Chad Ford. In 2014, Stephenson qualified to the P&G Championships where he competed in the all-around in the men's age 15-16 division. At the JO National Championships, Stephenson placed ninth all-around and second on vault. Next year Stephenson will join his older brother, Christopher, who is a Redshirt freshman for the 2014-15 season.

## SOFTBALL

The Nebraska softball team will add a pair of talented freshmen to its roster next season. Coach Rhonda Revelle announced this past Wednesday that Bri Cassidy and Alyvia Simmons signed with the Huskers for the 2015-16 season.

Cassidy is a catcher from

San Bernadino, Calif., while Simmons is an outfielder from Overland Park, Kan.

"This year's class may be small in number, but both players bring big strengths to our program," Revelle said. "Both are already fully Huskers, and we look for them to step on campus and hit the ground running. They are not only gifted on the softball field, but in the classroom as well, and Husker Nation will love them."

A returning high school All-American, Bri Cassidy will enter her senior season at Cajon High School in 2015 as one of the nation's top catchers. As a junior in 2014, Cassidy was one of two catchers named to the 2014 NFCA High School All-America first team.

Alyvia Simmons will be a senior at Blue Valley Northwest High School in Overland Park, Kan., this spring. Despite her senior status, Simmons will be playing just her second season of high school softball in 2015. She missed her freshman season because her family moved to Nebraska in January after the Nebraska high school softball season was complete. Simmons then starred at Millard West High School as a sophomore before her family moved back to Kansas.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

For the second consecutive season, Nebraska has signed the best recruiting class in school history, according to ESPN. Coach Connie Yori's four-player class has been ranked No. 8 nationally by ESPN and features the highest profile recruit in Husker basketball history - two-time Nebraska Gatorade High School Player of the Year Jessica Shepard.

Shepard, who is a member



of the USA Basketball U18 National Team, is ranked as the No. 3 overall player and the No. 1 post player in the country by ESPN.

Lanie Page, a 2014 Kansas Player of the Year selection, joins Shepard in the ESPN Top 100 at No. 82 and has been ranked as high as No. 19 nationally over the past year. She is set to join her older sister, Kaylee, who is freshman for the Huskers this season and was a top-100 player in Nebraska's No. 9 recruiting class by ESPN last year.

While Shepard and Page headline the class, Lincoln native Maddie Simon and Kansas Rachel Blackburn add size, strength and potential as top-150 recruits to a four-player class that is set to replace the most successful class of seniors in Nebraska history - Emily Cady, Hailie Sample, Tear'a Lauderhill and Brandi Jeffery.

Four years ago, the current class of Husker seniors formed a top-25 recruiting class that has gone on to average 25 wins per season and three straight NCAA Tournament trips for the Big Red.

"Our coaches have done another great job in identifying young women who can come in, fit into our culture and make an impact while also continuing to develop their skills as college players and grow as students and citizens at Nebraska," Yori said. "We have waited a long time for Jess Shepard's signing day, and it is an exciting day for everyone around Husker women's basketball. What makes it even more exciting is that Lanie Page, Maddie Simon and Rachel Blackburn give us a well-rounded class of great young women."

# 10 questions

with Kelsey Hansen  
Senior Women's Rifle



**1 What have you thought of Coach Rose in her first season?**

KH: She's doing a great job. She's added a lot of good technical aspects to the program, and her past knowledge has led to some drills. She has a lot of good mental strategies to implement.

**3 What does it take to be good at rifle?**

KH: You have to have dedication, a lot of focus. You have to pay a lot of attention to details and replicating the same thing over and over again.

**4 Do nerves come into play with shooting?**

KH: Yeah, definitely. I think, if anything, being nervous rifle athletes more than others because it affects your heart rate, how steady you are. It definitely makes a big difference. Just like any other sport, we work out three times a week in the morning, matches are roughly four hours long, and you are holding a roughly 13 to 15 pound gun for two hours at a time, so it's different. It doesn't have that speed and agility or power and strength that other sports have, but it's definitely a bunch of fine tuning the balance muscles, having that stamina to be very steady over a long period of time.

**5 How much is mental and how much is physical?**

KH: When you first start, a lot of it is physical, but as you practice more and you get the physical aspect down, it becomes a subconscious thing with your muscle memory. Once you get your physical positions down and have worked with that for a long time, it's mostly mental.

**7 How many teams are there, like Nebraska, where it's all female?**

KH: There's only us, TCU, Ole Miss and maybe one more that are all girls, and the rest are co-ed. Rifle and equestrian are the only two sports that are co-ed, and a lot of the co-ed teams are mostly men, they only have a few girls.

**8 What about the military academies like Army, Navy or Air Force, is it fun to beat those teams?**

KH: A lot of people on the outside, that don't know much about rifle think that's a big deal, but they are pretty much level with everyone else. You would think that it would be different, but most of the really good teams are West Virginia, Kentucky and Alaska.

**9 Is it fun being in the Great American Rifle Conference (GARC) with a bunch of great teams?**

KH: Yeah. The Great American Rifle Conference is actually the best conference. It usually has every team represented in the championships, whether it be individually or as a team. It's a great challenge to compete against.

**2 What are the differences between how Coach Rose and Coach Underwood handle the team?**

KH: She's implemented more psychology. We implemented a psychologist more, and she's going to work on individualizing training plans.

**6 Do you guys have rivals?**

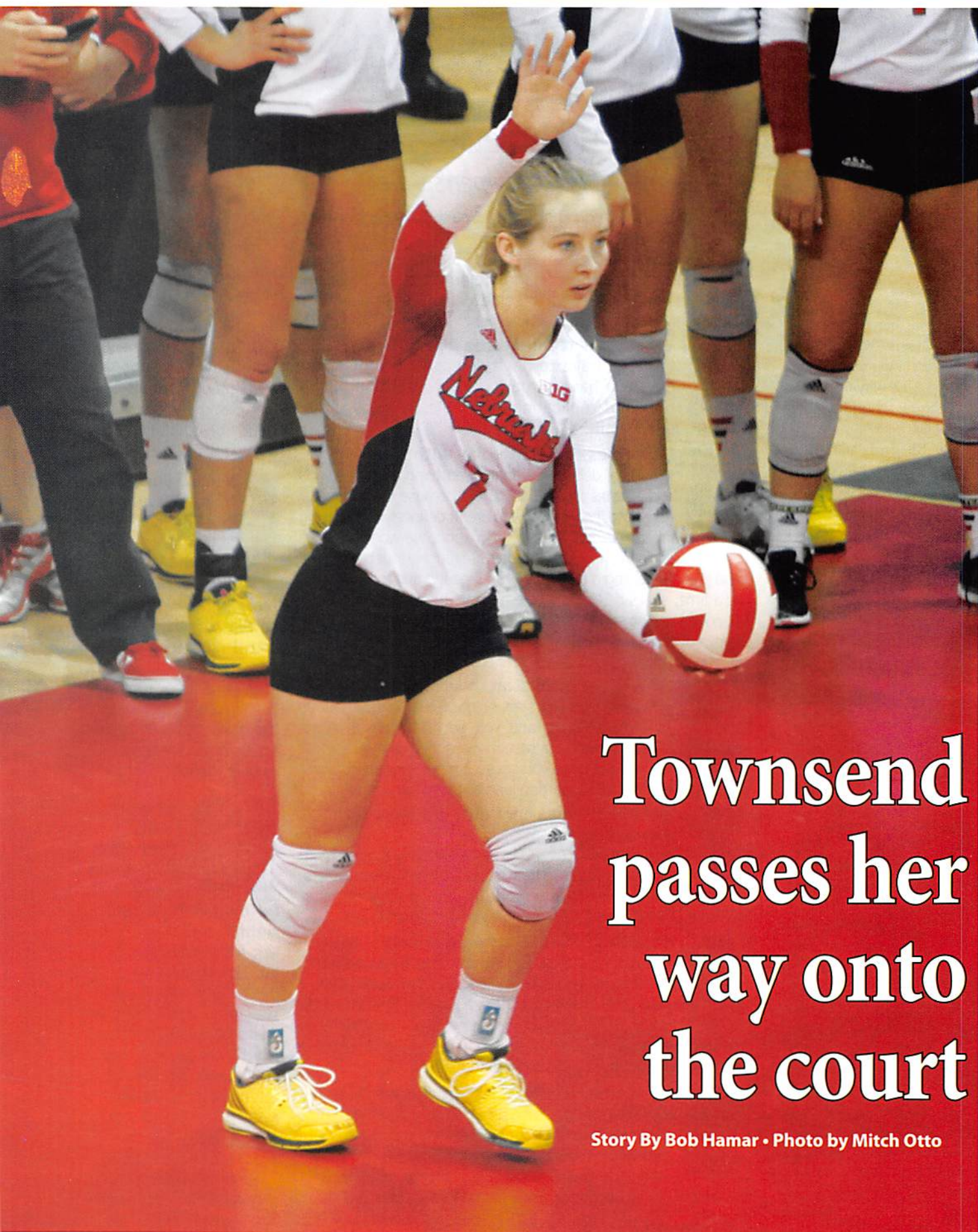
KH: There used to be a rivalry with West Virginia, but that was a few years back. We're taking on Alaska next weekend, and I know it's always good to beat a team with a lot of men because they don't really like to lose to the girls. We've done that a few times, and it's nice to beat them.

**10 Do you hunt? Your rifle skills must transfer over to hunting, right?**

KH: I haven't, actually, but I really want to. I think that it would be really fun, but it's kind of weird because I'm from North Dakota, and hunting is really big there, but none of my family ever really hunted much.

~As interviewed by Huskers Illustrated's Lanny Holstein





# Townsend passes her way onto the court

Story By Bob Hamar • Photo by Mitch Otto



**FRESHMAN SYDNEY TOWNSEND WASN'T YOUR TYPICAL HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL PLAYER WHILE AT LINCOLN PIUS X. TOWNSEND, NOW LISTED AS 5-FOOT-8 ON THE NU ROSTER, WAS A PRETTY GOOD OUTSIDE HITTER FOR THE THUNDERBOLTS, BUT HER HEART REALLY WASN'T IN THAT POSITION.**

She was an outside hitter her freshman year, a defensive specialist her sophomore year, and a libero her junior year. She started her senior season at outside, but switched to libero part way through.

"I was one of the tallest on the team and I could hit, so I hit," Townsend said. "And we weren't passing the way coach wanted us so I switched. I've always loved passing. It was a good switch for me."

Townsend wasn't that interested in hitting, even though she had 229 kills before switching to libero that senior season.

"I've never really liked hitting," Townsend said. "I've always wanted to pass."

So when Nebraska coach John Cook was looking for a defensive specialist/libero recruit for the 2014 class, he didn't have to look far. Townsend was right there in Lincoln.

"She's really fundamentally well trained because she's coming out of Pius," Cook said. "(Pius coach) Jake Moore does a great job. She's really smart. She's on a Regent's scholarship here. She's a great kid and a Lincoln girl, so she had a lot of things going for her and brings a lot culturally to our program."

Townsend joined the Huskers early in the summer. She didn't

## 2014 Nebraska Volleyball Schedule

Aug. 23, 2014	Red-White Game	Devaney Center	White 3-1
AVCA Showcase			
Aug. 29, 2014	Florida State	Devaney Center	L, 3-1 (0-1)
Aug. 31, 2014	Stanford	Devaney Center	L, 3-0 (0-2)
Flyer-Raider Invite			
Sept. 5, 2014	Dayton	Dayton, Ohio	W, 3-0 (1-2)
Sept. 6, 2014	CSU-Bakersfield	Dayton, Ohio	W, 3-1 (2-2)
Sept. 6, 2014	Eastern Kentucky	Dayton, Ohio	W, 3-0 (3-2)
Ameritas Players	Challenge		
Sept. 12, 2014	Denver	Devaney Center	W, 3-0 (4-2)
Sept. 13, 2014	Colgate	Devaney Center	W, 3-0 (5-2)
Sept. 17, 2014	Creighton	Devaney Center	W, 3-1 (6-2)
Sept. 20, 2014	Texas	Devaney Center	L, 3-2 (6-3)
Sept. 24, 2014	Iowa *	Devaney Center	W, 3-0 (7-3)
Sept. 27, 2014	Iowa *	Iowa City, Iowa	W, 3-0 (8-3)
Oct. 3, 2014	Penn State *	Devaney Center	W, 3-1 (9-3)
Oct. 4, 2014	Ohio State *	Devaney Center	L, 3-2 (9-4)
Oct. 10, 2014	Michigan State *	East Lansing, MI	W, 3-1 (10-4)
Oct. 11, 2014	Michigan *	Ann Arbor, MI	L, 3-0 (10-5)
Oct. 15, 2014	Northwestern *	Devaney Center	W, 3-0 (11-5)
Oct. 18, 2014	Illinois *	Devaney Center	L, 3-1 (11-6)
Oct. 22, 2014	Minnesota *	Minneapolis	W, 3-2 (12-6)
Oct. 26, 2014	Wisconsin *	Madison, Wis.	L, 3-0 (12-7)
Oct. 31, 2014	Rutgers *	Piscataway, N.J.	W, 3-0 (13-7)
Nov. 1, 2014	Maryland *	College Park, Md.	W, 3-0 (14-7)
Nov. 5, 2014	Purdue *	Devaney Center	W, 3-0 (15-7)
Nov. 8, 2014	Indiana *	Devaney Center	W, 3-0 (16-7)
Nov. 12, 2014	Michigan State *	Devaney Center	W, 3-1 (17-7)
Nov. 16, 2014	Maryland *	Devaney Center	TBA
Nov. 19, 2014	Indiana *	Bloomington, Ind.	TBA
Nov. 22, 2014	Michigan *	Devaney Center	TBA
Nov. 26, 2014	Illinois *	Champaign, Ill.	TBA
Nov. 29, 2014	Penn State *	State College	TBA
NCAA Tourney			
Dec. 4-6, 2014	TBD	College Sites	TBA
Dec. 13-14, 2014	TBD	Regional Sites	TBA
Dec. 18, 2014	TBD - Semifinals	Oklahoma City, OK	TBA
Dec. 20, 2014	Championship	Oklahoma City	6:35 p.m.

make the trip with the team to China because freshmen can't go on overseas trips, but she was able to get somewhat acclimated to college life over the summer.

Townsend knew that she had a chance to come in and contribute to the team right away.

"They told me I would

be able to fight for a spot," Townsend said. "I knew there were three of us coming in and there were spots at serving, defensive specialist and libero so we came in all fighting for it."

Cook was impressed with Townsend's abilities from the beginning.

"If you can pass, you can play," Cook said. "I saw her in

club and she was doing really well against a lot of the same players we're playing against right now."

Townsend moved right in and played in the opener against Florida State in August. As of Nov. 10, she had played in 19 of the 26 matches.

"We're asking her to come in and be a DS, to serve and play three rotations," Cook said. "She's getting more and more confident with it. We feel like she brings great energy to the court as well. She's found her niche and we're going to continue to use her."

Cook said Townsend probably could have gone to a smaller college and played outside hitter. That wasn't going to work at Nebraska.

"Not when you're 5-7, 5-8," Cook said. "You'd better like passing better. She went back and forth in high school. She's actually a really good attacker for her size. You'd be surprised when you watch her hit."

If Townsend had any thoughts about playing outside hitter somewhere in college, they disappeared when Cook offered her a spot with the Huskers.

"It's always a dream school, growing up here," Townsend said. "And then when I had that opportunity I jumped on it."

It's also a nice opportunity to get her education paid for. Townsend is studying chemistry and education. She wants to teach high school science and coach when she's done with college.

Playing college volleyball demands quite a time commitment from student-athletes, but Townsend said she has no trouble balancing athletics and academics.

"Academics have always been my love," Townsend said. "That's what I love, so it's easier for me to balance it because I want to do it."



# NEBRASKA VOLLEYBALL NOTEBOOK

Compiled by Bob Hamar • Photos by Mitch Otto

## HUSKERS GAINING CONFIDENCE

Nebraska took its lumps early in the season when it dropped its first two matches against Florida State and Stanford during the first weekend of play.

But as of Nov. 10, Stanford was ranked No. 1 and Florida State No. 3, and both teams were unbeaten at 24-0 on the season. Nebraska coach Cook said that first weekend was tough to overcome.

"When you start off 0-2, yeah, confidence is a problem," Cook said. "I think it took us a while to recover from that. Then we had a meltdown at Michigan (in a 3-0 loss). Those things are hard to recover from, but I think we're slowly recovering from it and learning from those matches."

Junior outside hitter Kelsey Fien said all losses aren't the same. Some are definitely tougher to take than others.

"You have to look at how you played," Fien said. "Did you play Nebraska volleyball? If not, then you can get down on yourself. I feel like our team kind of embraced those losses. I mean nobody likes losing. I think it's more fuel to the fire to make practice harder so we can get better."

That loss at Michigan was particularly frustrating for the players.

"I feel like that was different because it was a conference game," Fien said. "I know we didn't play how we should."

Fien said a change in attitude played a big part in changing the course of the Huskers season. Now they're playing with a different mentality in practices.

"We're holding ourselves more accountable for the little things, and when I say little things I mean we don't let a ball drop without a body touching it in some way, shape or form, whether we get the point or not," Fien said. "I think that's really helped us in practice because it's translating into games, which you can see. It's not to be flashy. Our mentality for the ball is to get it up and touch it."

## 'WHITE OUT' A BIG SUCCESS

The "White Out" for the Nov. 8 match against Indiana at the Devaney Center was a huge success.

When fans arrived at the arena, they found a white T-shirt on each seat with the words "Unite Tonite" on the front. Cook said the "White Out" idea came from the marketing department.

"They have a lot of creative, new ideas," Cook said. "A recruit's parent asked me, 'Does marketing do this all the time for you?' I said, 'Not really because we're sold out.' But (athletic director) Shawn Eichorst whole message is the fan experience. Are we making it fun for our fans? Whether it's football, volleyball, whatever."

Cook didn't even know about the white out until he arrived at the Devaney Center that Saturday morning. Not only was there a T-shirt on every seat, but there were also T-shirts draped over the railing up high for the standing-room only fans.

"To me it was a thank you to our fans for all the support they give us in volleyball," Cook said. "It's been all over social media. We've had all kinds of people hitting us back. I don't know how all that works, but my assistants tell me...it's gone viral. Is that the terminology? I just know recruits loved it and were very impressed."

The "White Out" did cause some problems for the players. The two teams combined for 14 service errors in the three-set match, including nine by the Huskers.

"It was really weird in there serving with all that white," Cook said.

## HUSKERS HOT VS. HOOSIERS

That match against the Hoosiers produced some interesting statistics. The Huskers hit a season's best .525 -- the sixth-best in school history and the best since 2000 -- that night and had just six hitting errors for the match. All six of those errors came in the second set, meaning the first and third sets were both error free. Cook took over as head coach in 2000, and that was the first time one of his teams went error free in two sets in the same match.

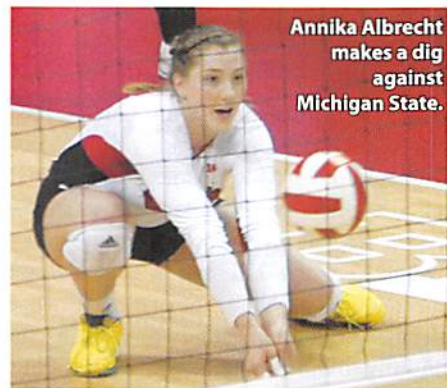
That match was also the third straight that the Huskers held their opponent to .100 or under hitting percentage for a match. That was the first time they had done that since 2005.



Meghan Haggerty makes an attack against Michigan State.



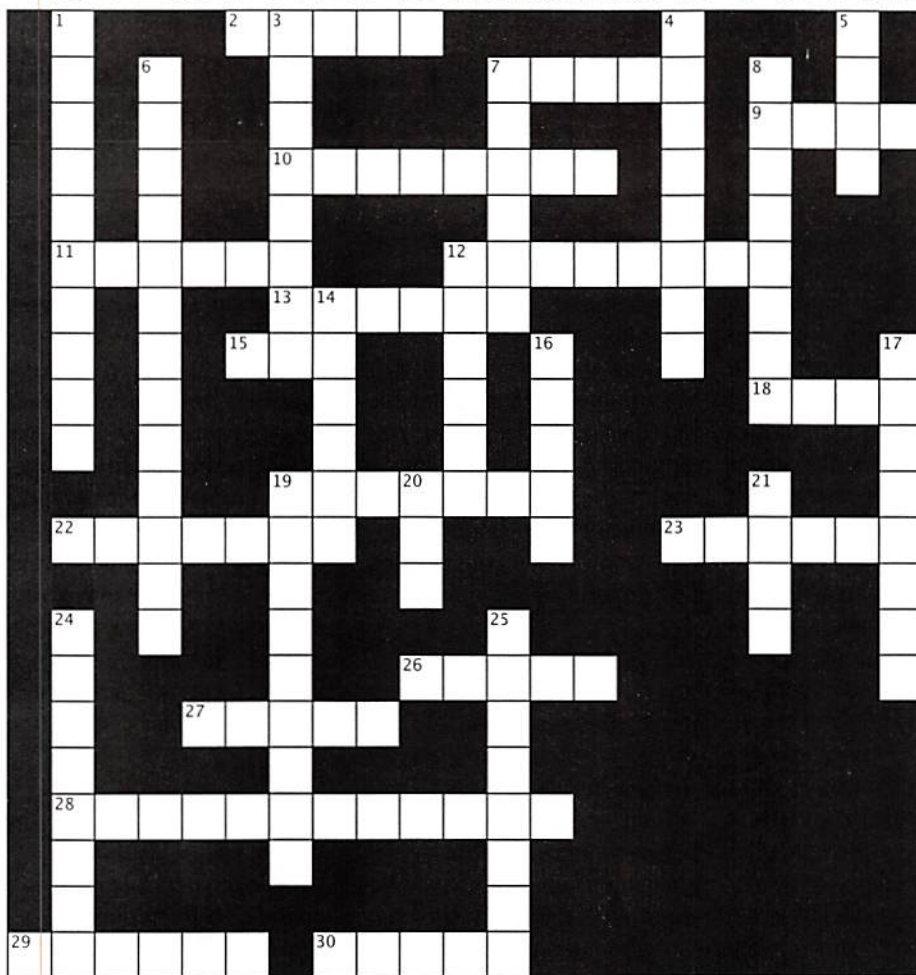
Setter Mary Pollmiller puts up a block against Michigan State.



Annika Albrecht makes a dig against Michigan State.



# NOVEMBER 22 CROSSWORD PUZZLE

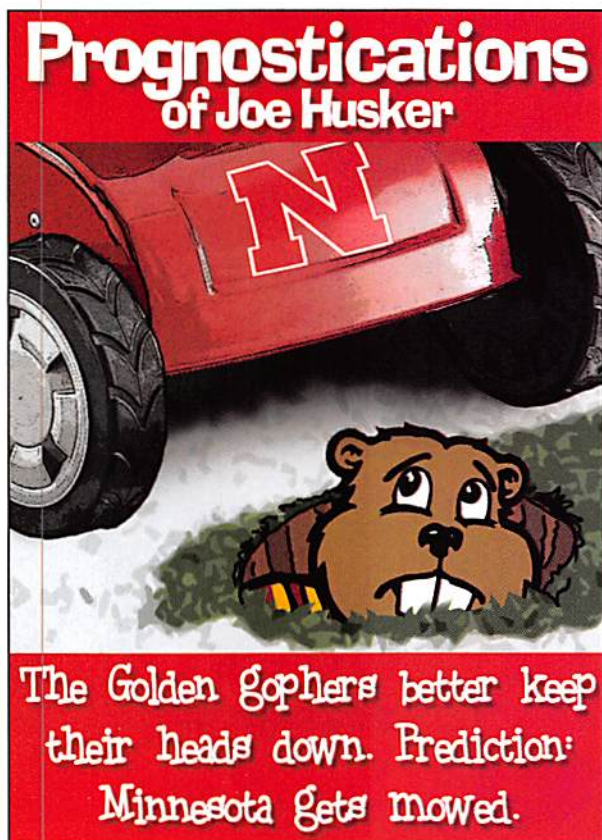


## ACROSS

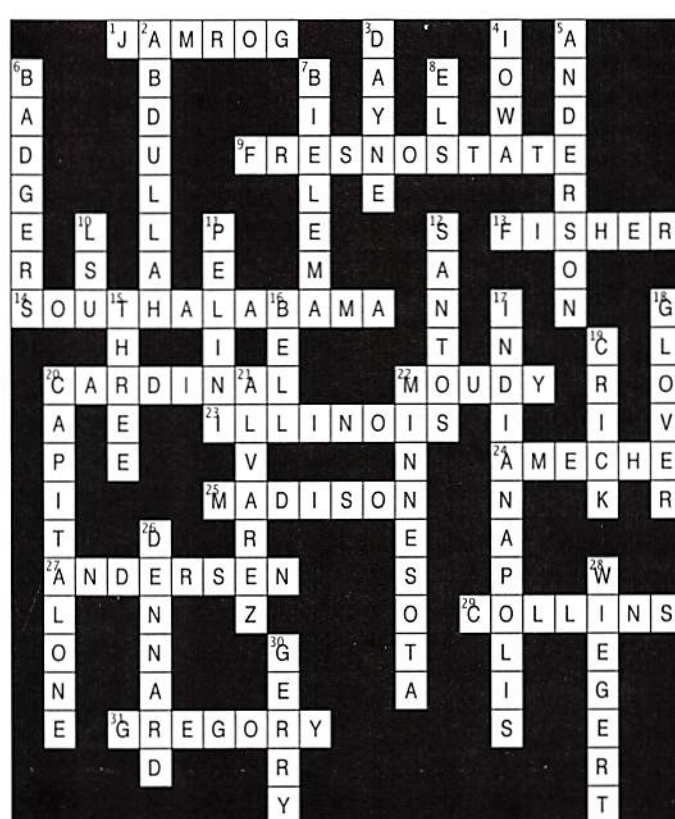
2. Wears No. 23 (defense)
7. 2015 non-conference opponent
9. Minnesota 2-time All-American, star linebacker for KC Chiefs
10. Athletic director
11. Wears No. 65 (offense)
12. Had his first interception vs. Purdue
13. 2016 non-conference opponent
15. Yards gained by Ameer Abdullah vs. Purdue
18. Ex-Husker running back, now with Washington Redskins
19. 1993 Butkus Award winner
22. Semifinalist for Chuck Bednarik Award
23. 2001 Walter Camp Player of Year
26. Minnesota's only Heisman Trophy winner
27. Wears No. 25 (defense)
28. City for Big Ten Championship game
29. Secondary coach
30. Minnesota's bowl game after 2013 season

## DOWN

1. Leading receiver vs. Purdue
3. Leading tackler vs. Purdue
4. Had 2 sacks vs. Purdue
5. Minnesota head coach
6. Minnesota nickname
7. Minnesota school color
8. Semifinalist for Maxwell Award
12. Wears No. 6 (defense)
14. Blocked punt in second quarter vs. Purdue
16. Scored 2 touchdowns vs. Purdue
17. Ex-Husker running back, now with Cincinnati Bengals
19. Leading rusher vs. Purdue
20. Linebackers coach
21. Nov. 28 opponent
24. De'Mornay Pierson-El's home state
25. Blocked punt in first quarter vs. Purdue



## NOVEMBER 15 CROSSWORD SOLUTION





# HUSKERS

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